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## RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

$500 MILLION INVESTMENT IN U.S. TO SOURCE CRITICAL MATERIAL

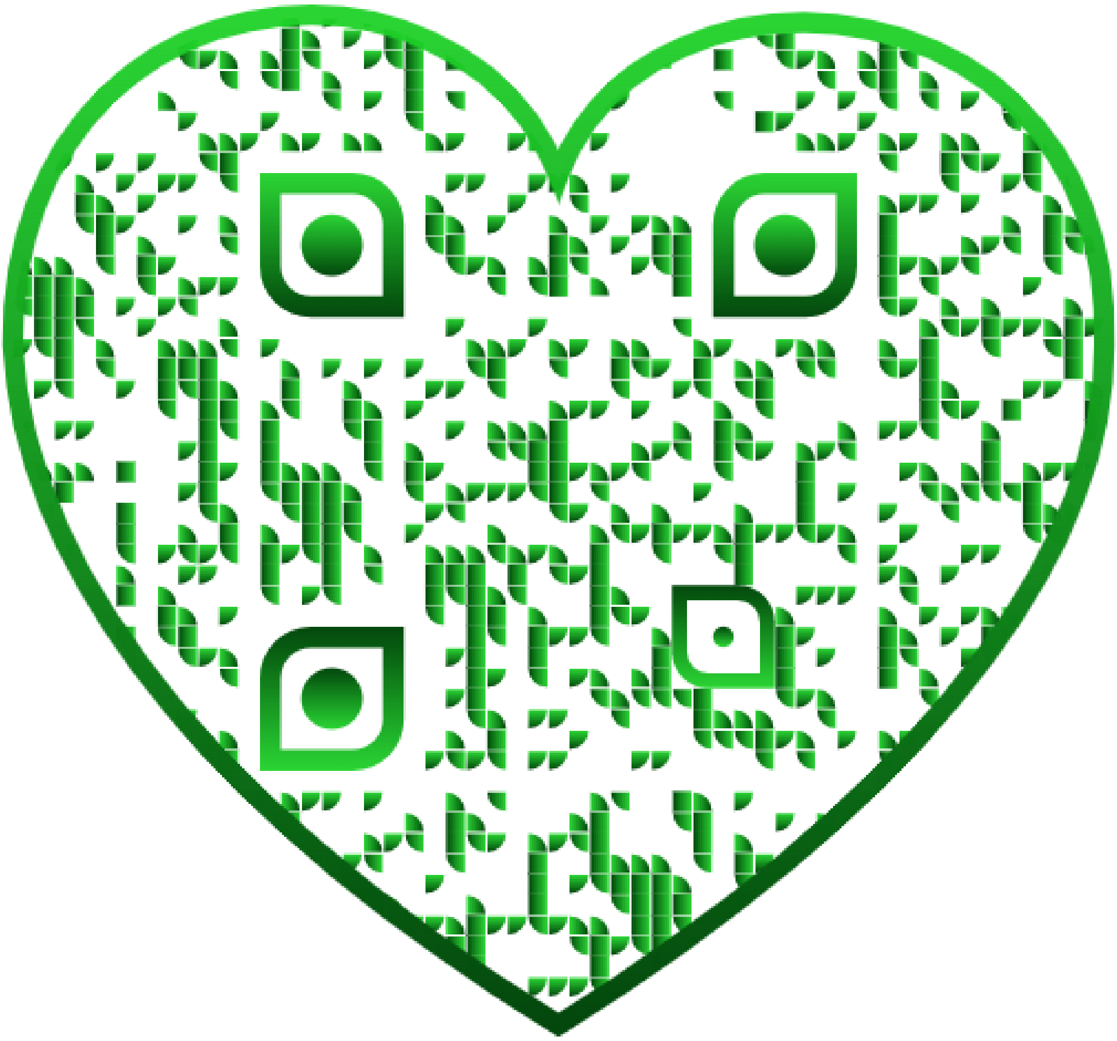
STRANGER THINGS 5

## NETFLIX'S BLOCKBUSTER

VECNA COMES TO HAWKINS FOR AN EXPLOSIVE BATTLE

# xAI Grok 4

A STRATEGIC STEP TO ENHANCE DIRECT INVESTMENT READINESS



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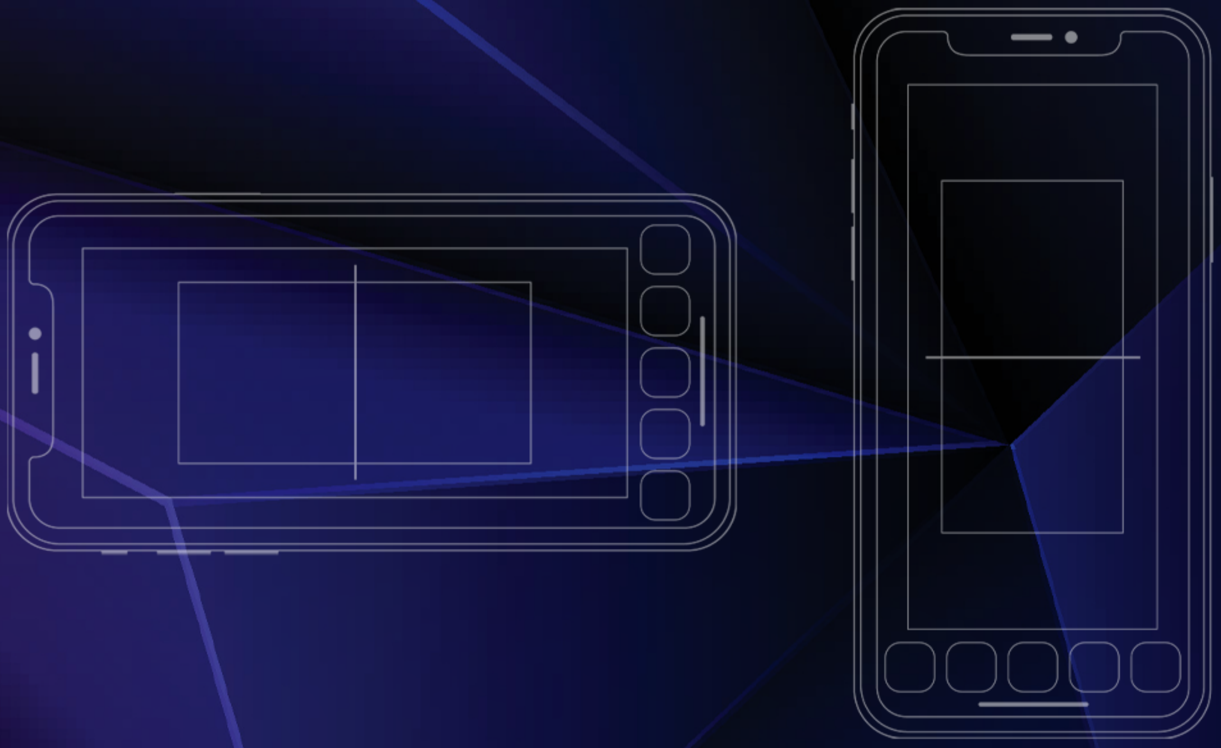

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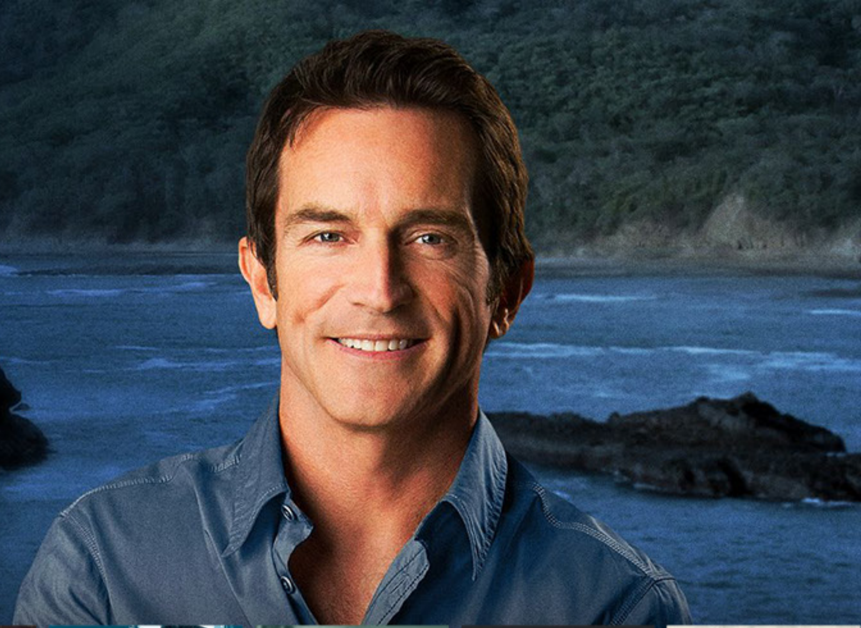

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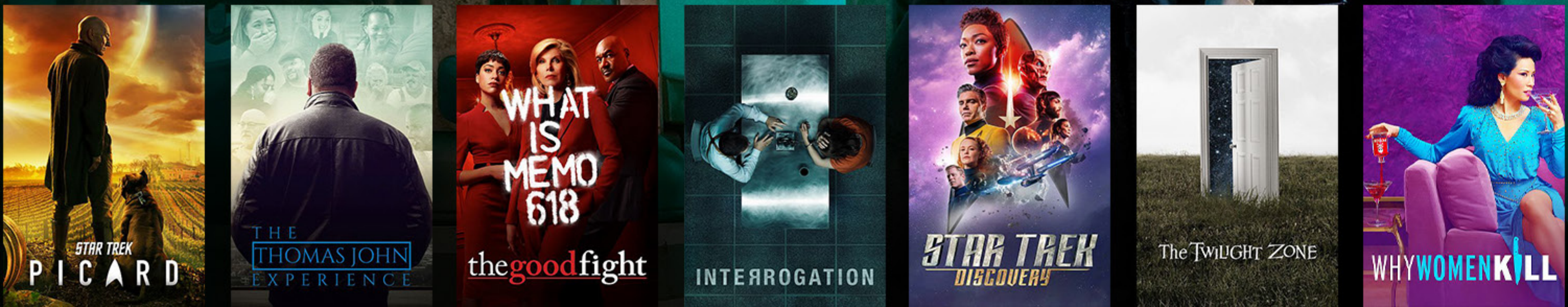
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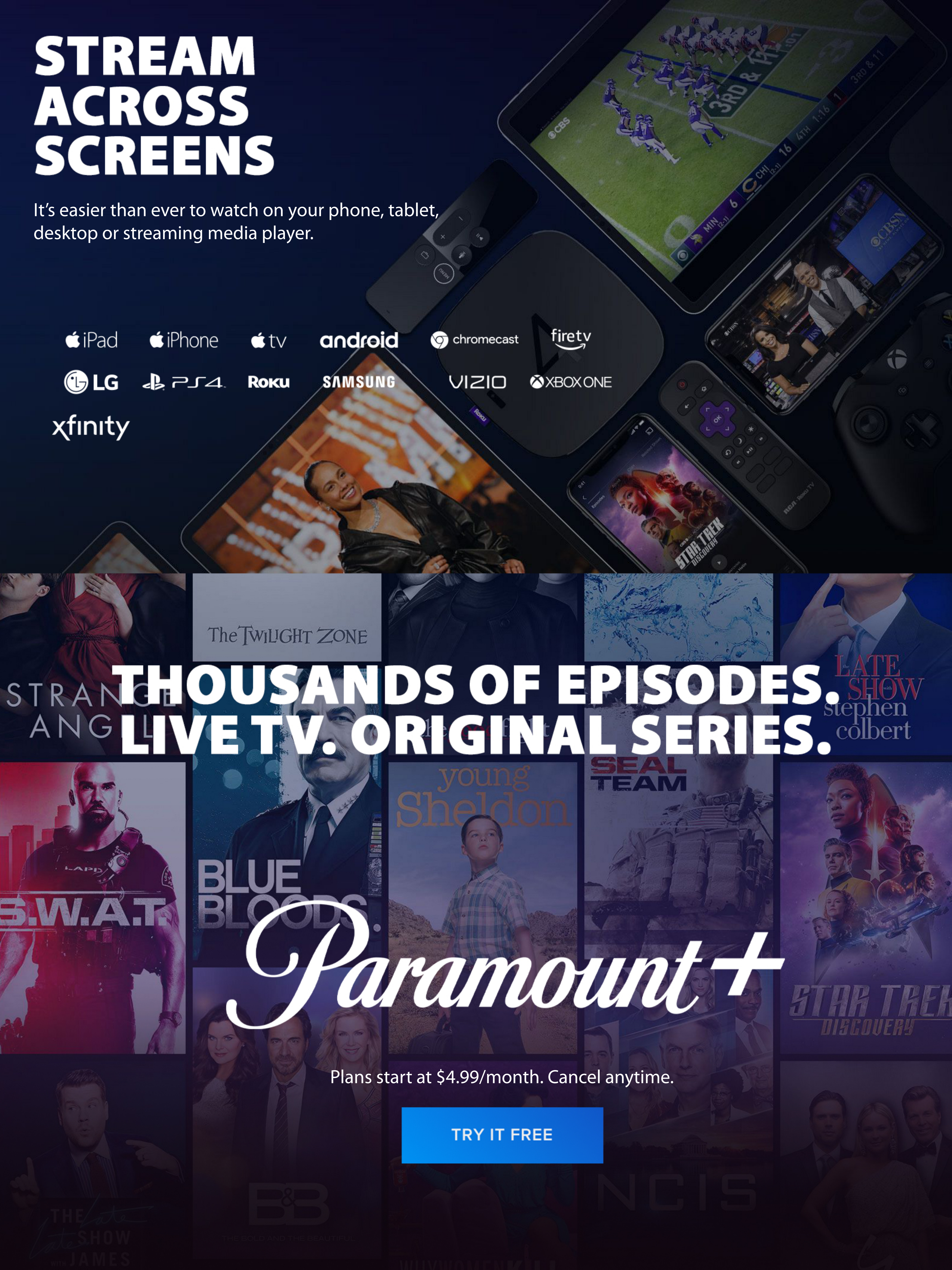
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# APPLE INVESTS $500 MILLION TO SOURCE CRITICAL IPHONE MATERIAL FROM THE U.S.

Apple has announced a $500 million investment to secure domestic sources of rare earth elements and other critical materials used in the manufacturing of iPhones and other key devices. The initiative is part of the company's ongoing effort to strengthen its supply chain resilience, reduce reliance on foreign suppliers, and support U.S.-based mining and materials processing.

The investment, part of Apple's broader Advanced Manufacturing Fund, will support projects that extract and refine materials essential for the production of components like magnets, batteries, and semiconductors. These include rare earth elements such as neodymium, dysprosium, and praseodymium—all vital for the iPhone's haptic motors, audio systems, and internal processors.

## SECURING DOMESTIC SUPPLY OF CRITICAL MATERIALS

Apple's $500 million initiative is focused on creating a stable, long-term domestic supply chain for materials that have historically been sourced from overseas, particularly China. The move aligns with U.S. government priorities around reshoring strategic resources and reducing exposure to geopolitical disruptions.

According to Apple, the investment will be directed toward companies engaged in responsible mining and processing of rare earths and other high-tech minerals within the United States. This includes both new extraction efforts and the expansion of existing facilities using environmentally sustainable technologies.

Jeff Williams, Apple's Chief Operating Officer, stated, "We're working to ensure that the materials powering our most advanced technologies

are sourced responsibly and close to home. This investment strengthens our supply chain while supporting American innovation and environmental stewardship."

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH U.S. MINING AND TECH FIRMS

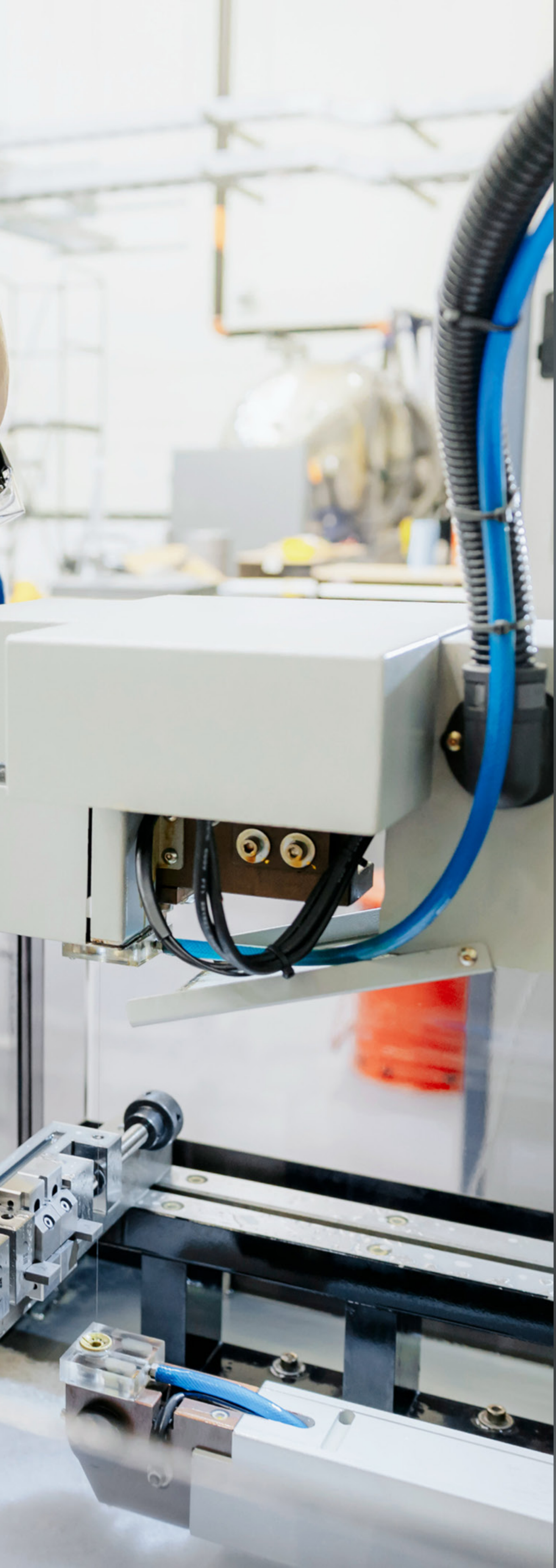
As part of the initiative, Apple is expected to partner with several domestic firms specializing in rare earth extraction and recycling. Among the key collaborators is MP Materials, the owner of the Mountain Pass rare earth mine in California—the only operational rare earth mine in the United States.

Apple previously signed agreements with MP Materials to source neodymium and other essential magnets from Mountain Pass, and this new funding will expand those efforts. Additional partnerships with advanced recycling companies and processing firms are also in the pipeline, aiming to refine U.S.-mined materials without the need to ship them abroad for processing.

The funding will also support research and development in material recovery, allowing Apple to recover critical components from returned devices and manufacturing scrap. This complements the company's environmental goals, which include making all Apple products using only recycled and renewable materials.

## REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SOURCES

Rare earth elements are indispensable for the production of a wide range of electronics, but global supply chains remain vulnerable. More than 80% of rare earth refining is currently



concentrated in China, creating both economic and strategic risks for global tech companies.

With rising tensions over trade and technology between the U.S. and China, Apple's effort to diversify its supply base is seen as a proactive move. Analysts note that while Apple still operates extensive manufacturing operations abroad, the company is increasingly looking to regionalize its supply network to reduce disruption from geopolitical events, natural disasters, or logistical bottlenecks.

This initiative also fits into broader national efforts. The U.S. government has allocated funding and regulatory support to expand domestic mining operations and critical mineral processing, citing the importance of these resources for electronics, defense, and clean energy technologies.

## SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Apple's investment is not only a strategic supply chain decision—it's also tightly aligned with its environmental policies. The company has pledged to become carbon neutral across its entire supply chain and product lifecycle by 2030. Sourcing materials domestically reduces transportation emissions, and investing in responsible extraction helps limit the environmental and social impacts often associated with mining operations overseas.

The company already uses 100% recycled rare earth elements in its iPhone magnets and continues to expand its use of recycled cobalt, gold, and aluminum. The new $500 million initiative will enhance Apple's ability to scale these efforts while supporting new technologies for sustainable extraction and recycling.

Lisa Jackson, Apple's Vice President of Environment, Policy, and Social Initiatives, emphasized that "building a more resilient supply chain is not only about where we source materials—it's about how we do it. We're committed to raising the bar for environmental responsibility at every stage."

## IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. TECH SECTOR

Apple's move could influence other major technology companies to follow suit. With growing pressure from both regulators and consumers to demonstrate supply chain transparency and environmental stewardship, domestic sourcing of critical materials is likely to become an industry-wide trend.

By leveraging its scale and capital, Apple is not only securing key inputs for its products but also helping to build a U.S.-based ecosystem capable of supporting advanced manufacturing in electronics, electric vehicles, and renewable energy.

Analysts suggest that while the domestic rare earth industry is still in its early stages, investments like Apple's could accelerate its development significantly, creating high-tech jobs and reducing long-term vulnerabilities in the tech hardware sector.

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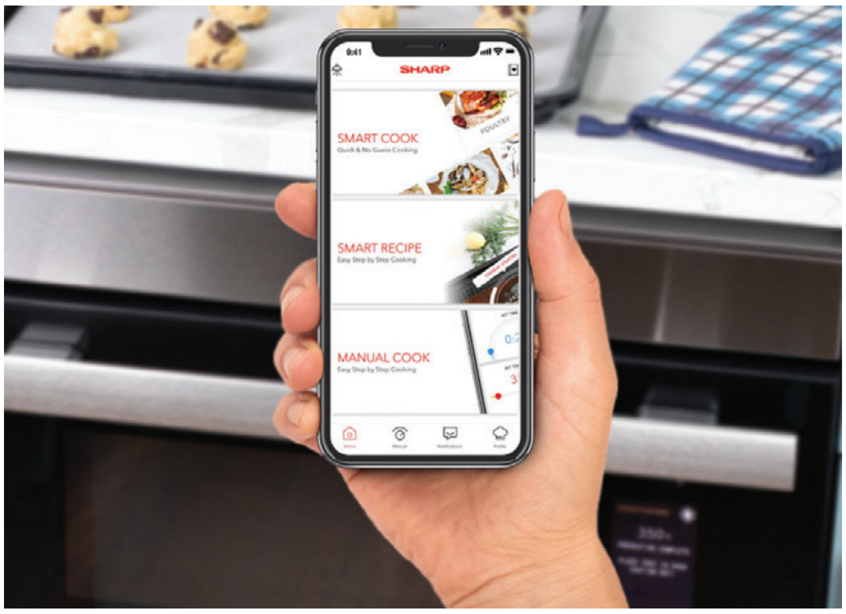
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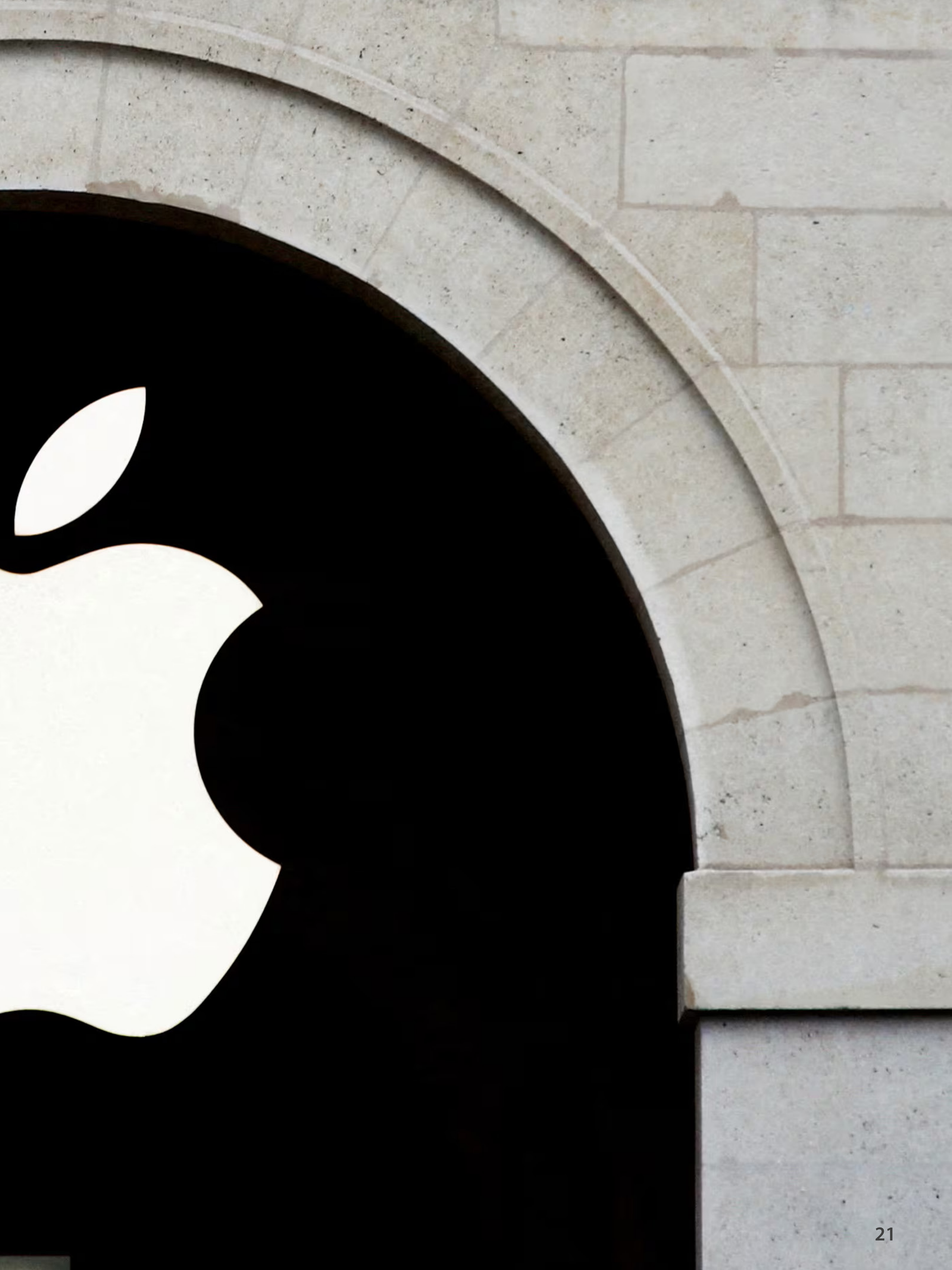
# APPLE BACKS US RARE-EARTH MAGNETS SUPPLY CHAIN WITH $500 MILLION DEAL

Apple has struck a $500 million deal with MP Materials, the only fully integrated rare-earth producer in the United States, to secure a supply of recycled rare-earth magnets for its products. The agreement includes pre-paying $200 million to expand MP Materials' Fort Worth facility with new manufacturing lines dedicated to Apple devices and to build a recycling plant in Mountain Pass, California. This move aims to boost domestic production of materials essential for advanced technology, reducing reliance on foreign sources.



Rare-earth elements are critical for making powerful magnets used in iPhones, Macs, and other gadgets, enabling features like MagSafe charging and efficient cooling systems. Apple's investment supports the creation of dozens of new jobs in research and manufacturing, fostering expertise in magnet production within the country. The partnership builds on Apple's efforts to use recycled materials, with nearly all magnets in its devices now made from 100% recycled rare earths, starting with the Taptic Engine.

The deal is part of Apple's broader $500 billion pledge to U.S. manufacturing, funded through its Advanced Manufacturing Fund launched in 2017. By sourcing magnets domestically, Apple addresses supply chain vulnerabilities, particularly amid trade tensions that have impacted rare-earth imports. The collaboration is expected to enhance magnet performance through innovative processing, benefiting future products.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RARE-EARTH ELEMENTS

Rare-earth elements, like neodymium, are vital for high-tech applications, forming strong magnets that power everything from smartphone speakers to electric vehicle motors. These materials are scarce and mostly mined outside the U.S., with China dominating 70% of global production, raising concerns about supply stability and national security. Apple's deal with MP Materials, which operates the only U.S. rare-earth mine, aims to build a resilient domestic chain, from extraction to recycling.

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The recycling facility in Mountain Pass will process end-of-life products to recover rare earths, closing the loop on material use. This approach not only cuts environmental impact but also mitigates risks from tariffs and export restrictions, as seen in past trade disputes. MP Materials' expansion will increase output of neodymium magnets, key for Apple's ecosystem, supporting devices that rely on compact, powerful components.

The investment highlights rare earths' role in innovation. Without them, features like haptic feedback or wireless charging would be less efficient. By backing U.S. production, Apple positions itself as a leader in sustainable manufacturing, aligning with goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

## BENEFITS FOR APPLE AND THE US ECONOMY

The partnership offers Apple a stable, eco-friendly supply of magnets, ensuring consistent production for its 1.8 billion devices. By pre-paying $200 million, Apple secures priority access to MP Materials' output, reducing exposure to global price fluctuations. The deal also advances Apple's recycled materials goal, with 100% recycled rare earths in magnets since 2019, enhancing its brand as an environmental steward.

For the U.S. economy, the investment creates jobs in high-tech manufacturing and strengthens the supply chain for critical materials. MP Materials' Fort Worth plant will add lines tailored to Apple's needs, boosting capacity and innovation in magnet technology. The recycling facility addresses waste management, recovering valuable elements from discarded electronics, a growing issue with e-waste reaching 62 million tons annually worldwide.

This aligns with U.S. efforts to onshore critical supply chains, as rare earths are essential for defense and clean energy. The deal could inspire similar investments, reducing dependence on foreign sources and fostering domestic expertise in a market projected to grow to $20 billion by 2030.

## CHALLENGES IN THE RARE-EARTH SECTOR

Rare-earth mining and processing are complex, involving environmental risks like toxic waste and high water use. MP Materials has faced scrutiny for past practices, though it claims improved sustainability. Apple's deal emphasizes recycling, which mitigates mining impacts, but scaling production to meet demand requires careful oversight to avoid ecological harm.

Market volatility is another hurdle. Rare-earth prices fluctuate with global supply, influenced by China's dominance and trade policies. Past tariffs during U.S.-China disputes raised costs for companies like MP Materials, prompting diversification. Apple's $500 million commitment provides stability, but broader industry adoption is needed to build a robust U.S. chain.

Technical innovation is key. Developing new magnet materials and processes to improve performance, as outlined in the agreement, demands research investment. Apple's involvement could accelerate breakthroughs,

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but success depends on collaboration between tech firms and miners.

## A BROADER PUSH FOR SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS

Apple's investment is part of a pattern of backing U.S. manufacturing. The Advanced Manufacturing Fund has committed $6 billion since 2017, supporting suppliers like Corning for iPhone glass and Finisar for laser components. This deal extends that focus to critical materials, emphasizing recycled rare earths to meet environmental goals.

The partnership could influence the tech industry, where rare earths are indispensable for batteries, screens, and motors. Companies like Tesla and Google face similar supply risks, and Apple's move may encourage domestic sourcing. With the U.S. producing only 12% of global rare earths, investments like this are crucial for self-reliance.

As Apple integrates these magnets into future devices, the deal underscores a shift toward sustainable, secure supply chains, balancing innovation with responsibility in a resource-constrained world.

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# PENTAGON AWARDS $800 MILLION IN AI CONTRACTS TO TECH GIANTS

The Pentagon's Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office has awarded contracts worth up to $200 million each to Anthropic, Google, OpenAI, and xAI, totaling a potential $800 million. The agreements focus on developing agentic AI workflows to enhance national security operations. Each company will create prototypes for autonomous AI systems capable of executing complex tasks, marking the Department of Defense's largest collective investment in AI to date.

AI

THE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON

The contracts are part of a broader initiative to integrate advanced AI into military applications, from logistics to intelligence analysis. The selected firms were chosen through a competitive bidding process under the DoD's other transaction authority, emphasizing their expertise in cutting-edge AI technologies. This move underscores the Pentagon's commitment to leveraging commercial innovation to maintain technological superiority in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The awards align with national efforts to bolster AI infrastructure, as private companies like Meta and Blackstone have announced significant investments in data centers and energy projects. The Pentagon's push aims to keep pace with adversaries investing heavily in AI, ensuring the U.S. remains a leader in defense technology.

## AGENTIC AI: THE CORE OF THE PROJECT

Agentic AI systems can independently plan and execute multi-step processes, a capability critical for streamlining military operations. The contracts task Anthropic, Google, OpenAI, and xAI with building prototypes that meet stringent DoD standards for reliability and security. These systems are expected to automate routine tasks, such as supply chain management or data processing, freeing personnel for strategic roles.

Anthropic will apply its expertise in safe AI development, rooted in its Claude models, which prioritize ethical guidelines. Google leverages its robust cloud infrastructure and machine learning research, honed through products like Search and Assistant. OpenAI brings its proficiency in generative AI, with ChatGPT's natural language processing

capabilities suited for task automation. xAI, founded by Elon Musk, contributes Grok, designed for real-time data handling and scientific discovery.

The prototypes will undergo rigorous testing to ensure compliance with military requirements, including data protection and bias mitigation, before potential deployment in operational settings.

## STRENGTHS OF THE SELECTED COMPANIES

Anthropic's constitutional AI approach emphasizes safety and interpretability, backed by billions in funding from investors like Amazon. Its Claude models excel in tasks requiring ethical considerations, making it a fit for defense applications where reliability is paramount.

Google's involvement draws on its extensive experience in data processing and machine learning, powering products with billions of users. Its cloud infrastructure provides the computational backbone needed for large-scale AI deployment in military contexts.

OpenAI, a leader in generative AI, has advanced natural language models through ChatGPT and partnerships with Microsoft. Its ability to automate complex workflows positions it as a key player in developing agentic systems for the DoD.

xAI's Grok, built to accelerate scientific discovery, integrates real-time data, offering unique capabilities for dynamic environments. Musk's focus on rapid innovation aligns with the Pentagon's need for agile solutions.

Each company's distinct strengths ensure a diverse approach to tackling the DoD's AI challenges, from secure data handling to autonomous decision-making.

## A BROADER AI INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE

The Pentagon's contracts are part of a larger wave of AI investments, with private firms like Meta committing hundreds of billions to build AI data centers and multi-gigawatt clusters like Prometheus and Hyperion. Blackstone has pledged over $25 billion for data centers and power structures in Pennsylvania, while CoreWeave plans a $6 billion facility in Lancaster. These investments highlight the growing demand for infrastructure to support AI's computational needs.

The DoD's Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office oversees the project, aiming to embed AI in missions ranging from logistics to intelligence analysis. The initiative builds on prior efforts, like the DoD's $249 million AI contract with Palantir, but the scale of this $800 million deal sets a new benchmark. The contracts reflect a strategic partnership between government and industry, leveraging commercial AI to enhance national security.

The awards follow a competitive process, with the four companies selected for their proven track records in advancing AI technologies. This collaboration is expected to yield prototypes that could transform how the military operates, from automating supply chains to analyzing vast datasets in real time.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND BEYOND

The $800 million investment accelerates the DoD's adoption of AI, enabling faster decision-making in critical operations. Agentic systems could streamline tasks like mission planning or threat detection, reducing human workload and improving efficiency. The prototypes are designed to meet strict security standards, ensuring data protection and minimizing biases that could affect outcomes.

This initiative positions the U.S. to stay ahead in global AI competition, particularly against nations investing heavily in military technology. The collaboration highlights the growing role of private-sector AI in defense, with potential applications extending to cybersecurity and battlefield simulations.

The contracts also signal a shift toward integrating commercial AI into government systems, fostering innovation while addressing ethical concerns. The DoD's emphasis on secure, reliable prototypes could set standards for AI deployment across other federal agencies, influencing how technology shapes public policy.

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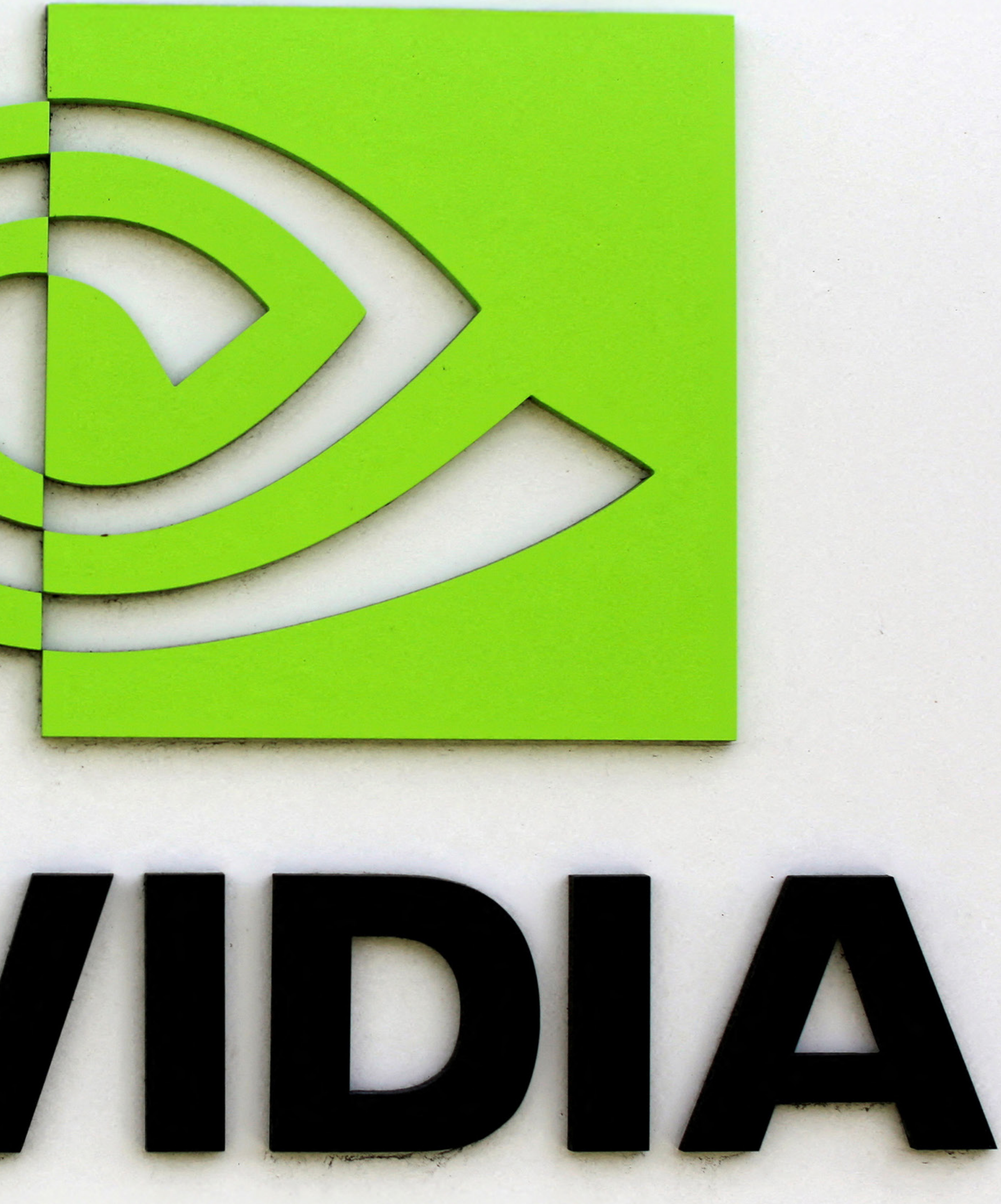
# NVIDIA'S CEO SAYS IT HAS US APPROVAL TO SELL ITS H20 AI COMPUTER CHIPS IN CHINA


VIDIA

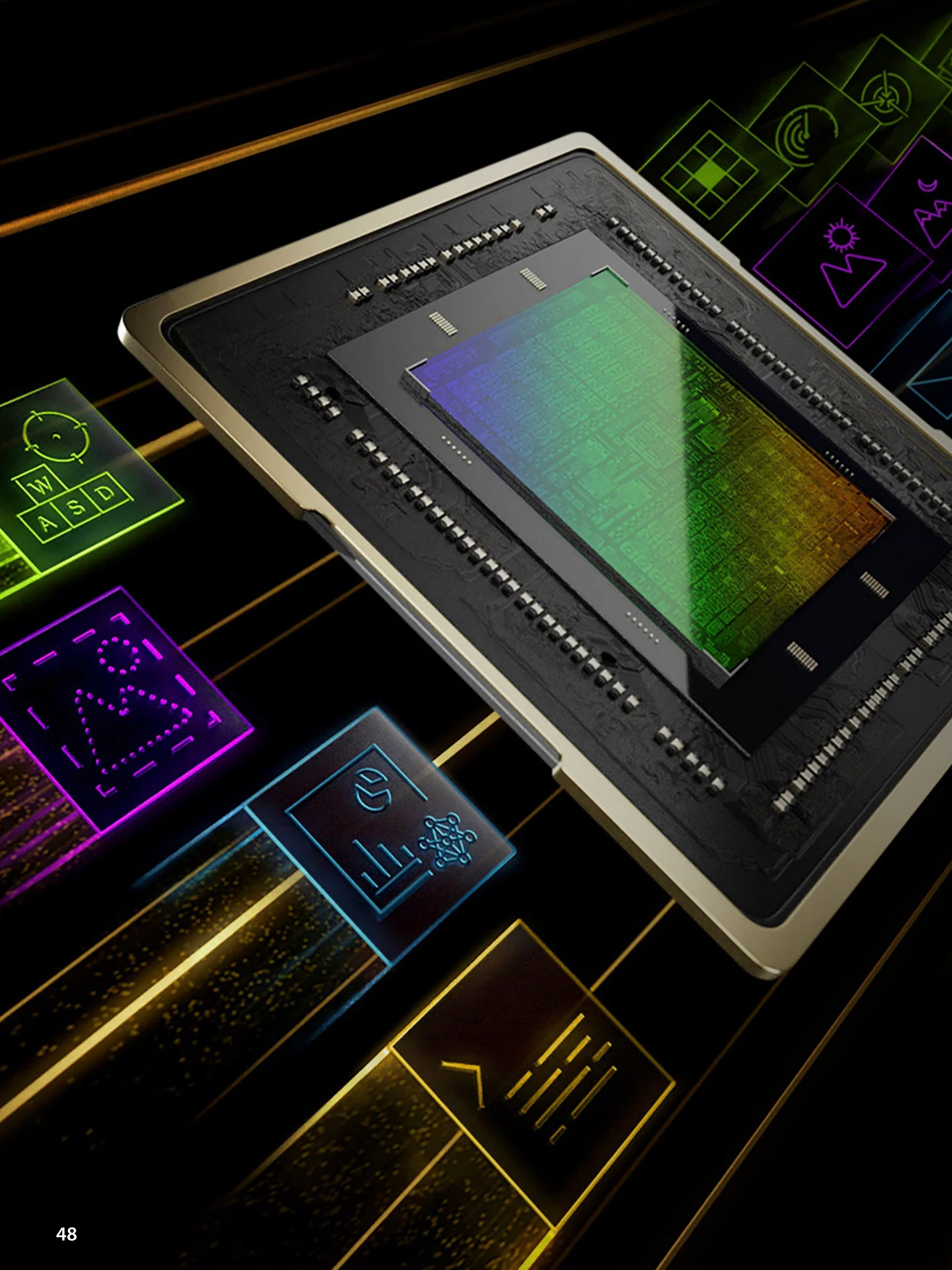
Nvidia's chief executive Jensen Huang confirmed that the company has received approval from the United States government to sell its H20 artificial intelligence chips to customers in China. The announcement marks a significant development in the ongoing balance between U.S. export controls and Nvidia's strategic access to the Chinese AI market.

The H20 chips are part of a modified product line Nvidia created to comply with tightening U.S. restrictions on advanced semiconductor technology sales to China. These chips are tailored to limit processing power below thresholds set by the U.S. Department of Commerce, allowing Nvidia to maintain a presence in one of the world's largest markets for AI hardware.

## A REGULATORY PATHWAY THROUGH EXPORT CONTROLS

Nvidia's ability to secure U.S. government approval for sales of the H20 chips demonstrates a carefully coordinated effort to align with American national security policy while still supporting its international business operations. After the U.S. imposed strict export regulations in 2022 and further tightened them in late 2023, Nvidia was forced to halt shipments of its most powerful AI GPUs, including the A100 and H100, to China.

In response, Nvidia designed new chips like the H20 with modified interconnect speeds and reduced computing performance to stay within regulatory limits. According to Huang, these revised chips have passed through the U.S. Department of Commerce's review and are now authorized for sale.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The H20 chips, which are based on Nvidia's Hopper architecture, offer competitive AI capabilities while complying with U.S. export thresholds. Their availability in China is expected to allow Nvidia to resume hardware shipments to leading Chinese tech firms, including Alibaba, Tencent, and Baidu, which have been seeking alternatives amid supply chain uncertainties.

## RETAINING MARKET ACCESS UNDER GEOPOLITICAL PRESSURE

China remains a vital market for Nvidia despite rising tensions between Washington and Beijing. Prior to the export restrictions, Nvidia reportedly earned between 20% to 25% of its data center revenue from China. While that number declined following the implementation of export controls, the launch of compliant products like the H20 is expected to partially restore Nvidia's sales footprint.

During a recent media interview, Huang stated that "a large number of our customers in China are now evaluating or beginning to deploy the H20 chips." He noted that while these chips do not match the performance of the H100s or the upcoming Blackwell B200 series, they provide sufficient power for enterprise AI workloads such as language processing, recommendation systems, and customer analytics.

This development also signals Nvidia's ability to adapt its product lineup in response to shifting regulatory landscapes. By engineering chips that strategically skirt the export control thresholds, Nvidia avoids violating U.S. restrictions while preserving customer relationships in China.

## STRATEGIC BALANCING BETWEEN TECH AND POLICY

Nvidia's approval to sell the H20 in China highlights a broader trend in how U.S. semiconductor companies are managing geopolitical risk. As the U.S. government intensifies efforts to limit China's access to cutting-edge AI technologies, chipmakers are increasingly finding themselves in the crosshairs of trade policy.

Washington's concerns stem from the dual-use nature of AI chips, which can be used for both commercial and military applications. To prevent Chinese firms from developing military-grade AI systems, U.S. authorities have capped the processing capabilities and interconnect bandwidth of exportable chips.

Nvidia's compliance strategy has focused on staying within these constraints while still offering functional products. The H20, along with other modified chips like the L20 and L2, are examples of this new class of export-approved AI accelerators. Industry analysts suggest that these chips may dominate the mid-range AI market in China, especially as local startups and internet companies ramp up their AI infrastructure.

## COMPETITION FROM DOMESTIC CHINESE CHIPMAKERS

Nvidia's re-entry into the Chinese AI hardware market does not come without challenges. In the wake of U.S. sanctions, Chinese firms have been accelerating their efforts to develop domestic alternatives. Huawei, in particular, has made headlines with its Ascend AI chips, which

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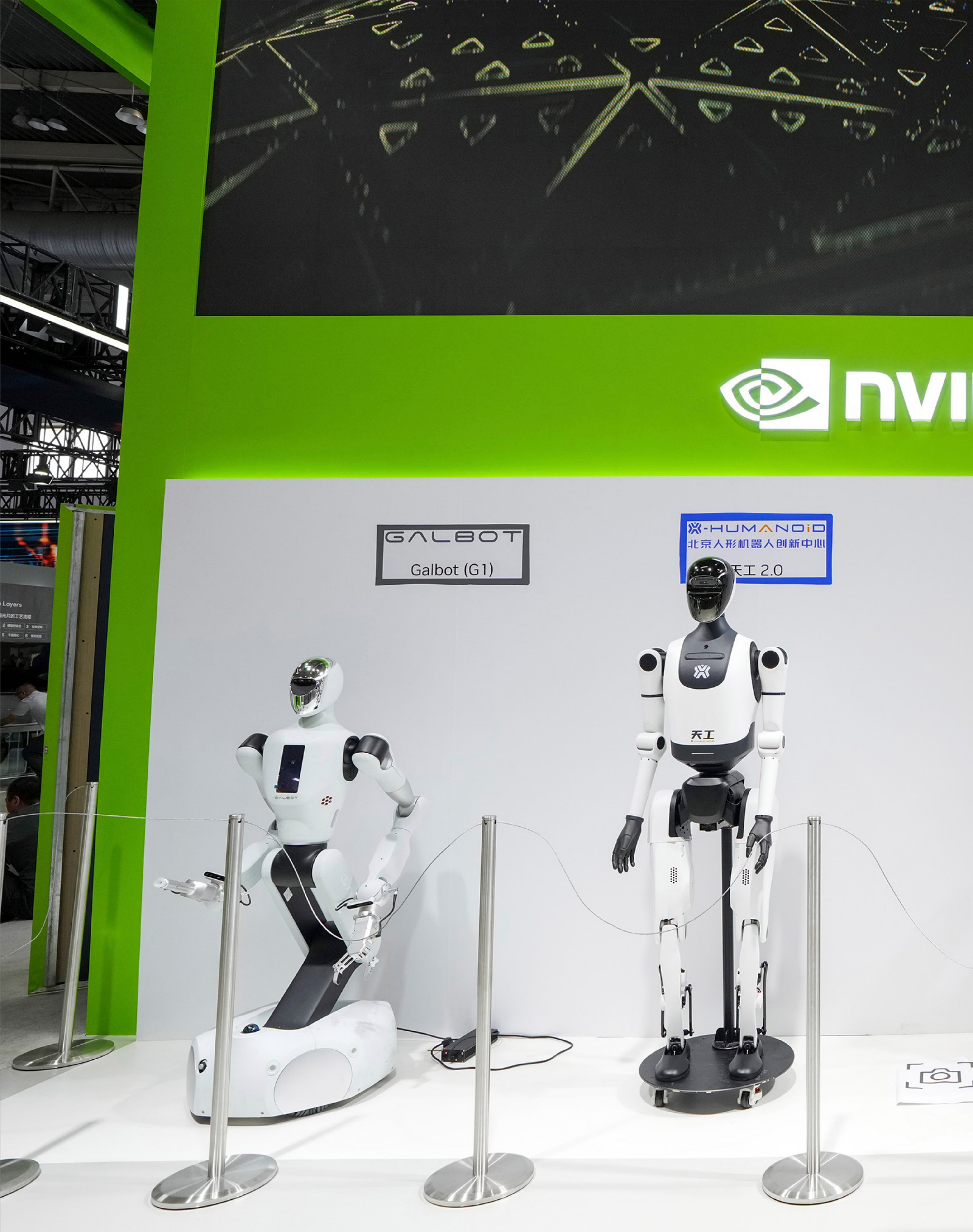
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Alpha Bot 2

are being promoted as viable replacements for Nvidia products.

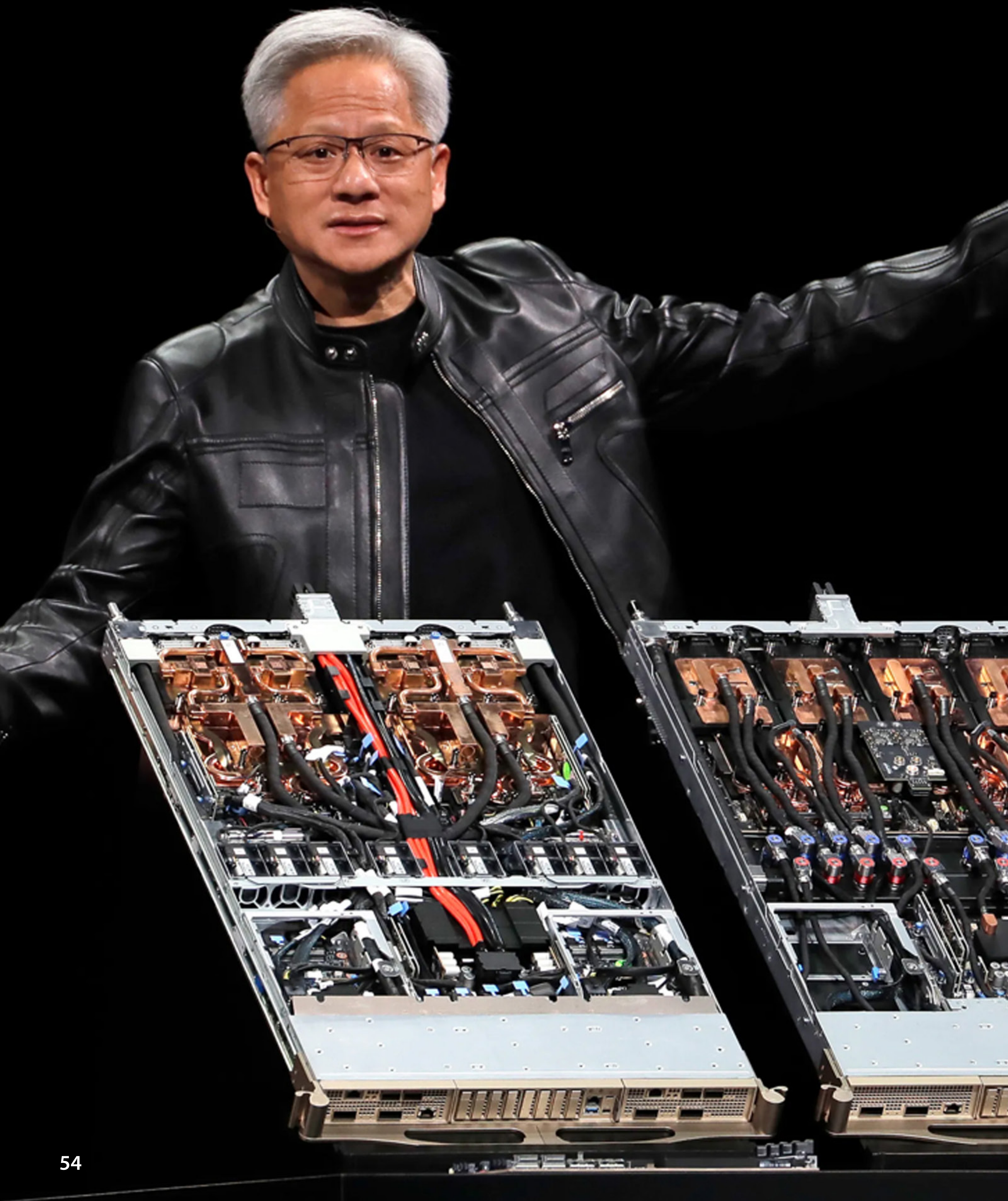
Reports suggest that major cloud service providers in China are testing Huawei's hardware for AI model training and inference. While these chips still lag behind Nvidia in terms of software ecosystem and performance, Chinese government support and procurement incentives could gradually shift market dynamics.

However, Nvidia's CUDA software stack and ecosystem continue to offer a key competitive advantage. Many Chinese AI developers have built their workflows on Nvidia's GPU infrastructure, making it costly and time-consuming to switch to alternatives. The availability of the H20 chips ensures continuity for existing workloads and reduces the need for reengineering AI systems around non-Nvidia hardware.

## OUTLOOK FOR NVIDIA'S CHINA STRATEGY

With U.S. approval now secured, the rollout of H20 chips could help Nvidia recover lost momentum in the Chinese market. Analysts expect shipments to ramp up through the second half of 2025 as enterprise customers resume AI infrastructure investments.

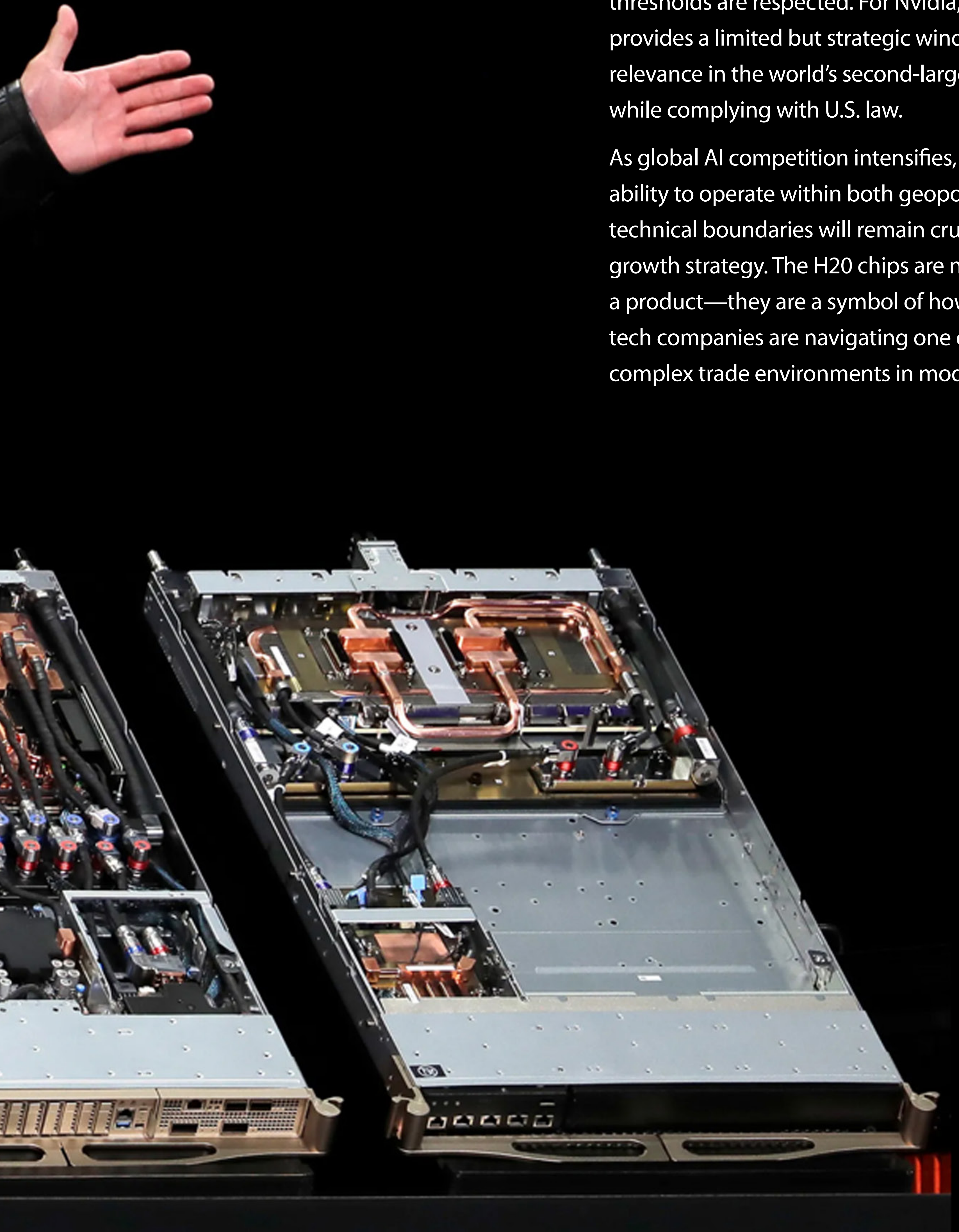
Still, the long-term outlook remains uncertain. Any further tightening of U.S. export policies or escalation in tech tensions could disrupt Nvidia's sales channels once again. Huang acknowledged that Nvidia is preparing for multiple scenarios, including the possibility

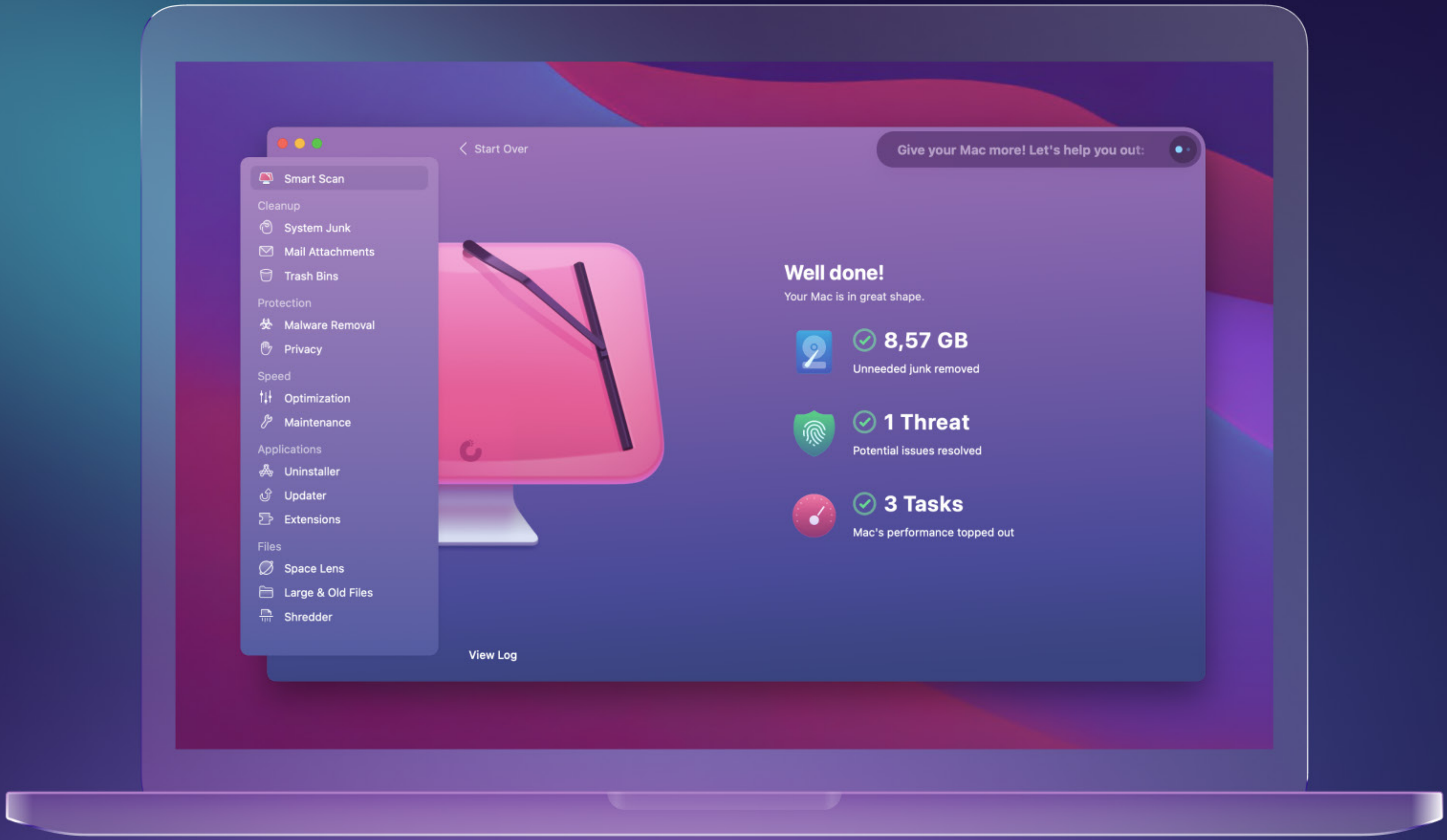


of greater reliance on other Asian and emerging markets.

Nonetheless, the current approval signals that the U.S. is willing to permit regulated access to certain AI hardware as long as national security thresholds are respected. For Nvidia, this provides a limited but strategic window to retain relevance in the world's second-largest economy while complying with U.S. law.

As global AI competition intensifies, Nvidia's ability to operate within both geopolitical and technical boundaries will remain crucial to its growth strategy. The H20 chips are not just a product—they are a symbol of how global tech companies are navigating one of the most complex trade environments in modern history.

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Trash Bins
Protection
Malware Removal
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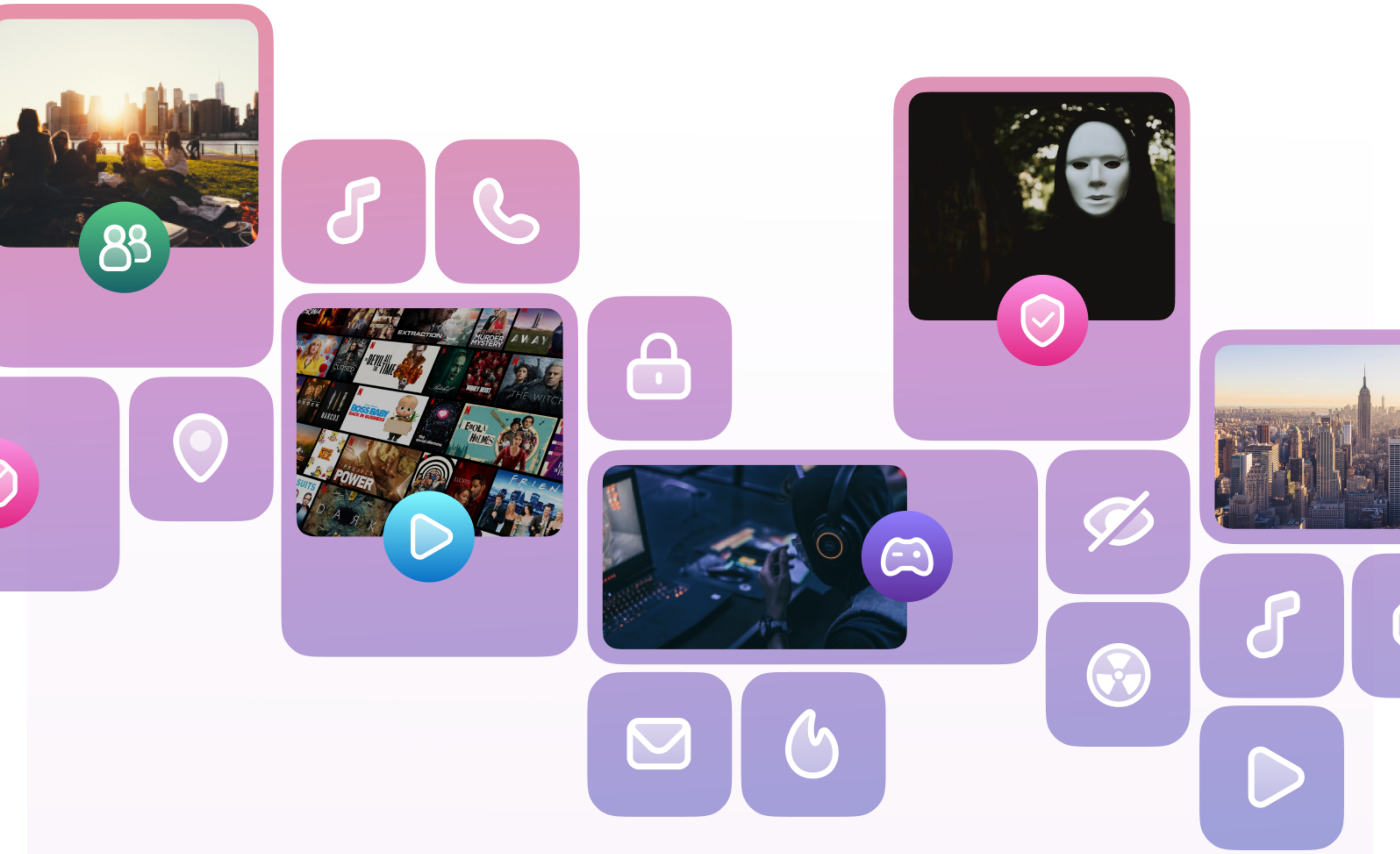

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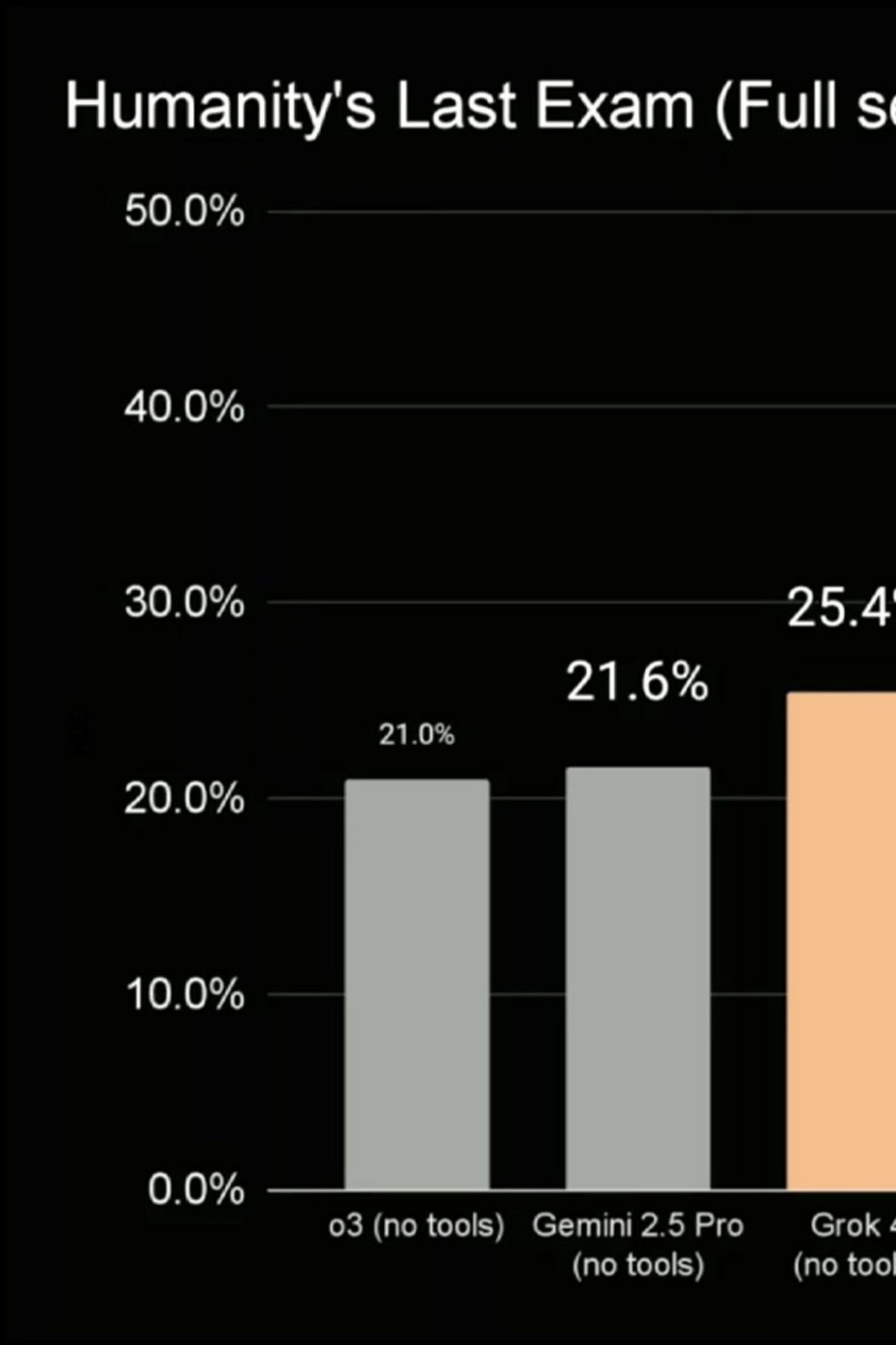
# Grok

## A STRATEGIC STEP TO ENHANCE DIRECT INVESTMENT READINESS

SUMMIT

xAI has unveiled its latest flagship model, Grok 4, a direct competitor to industry giants like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. The new model offers unparalleled performance with real-time search integration, native tool use, and frontier-level intelligence across both academic and practical benchmarks.

# Humanity’s Last Ex



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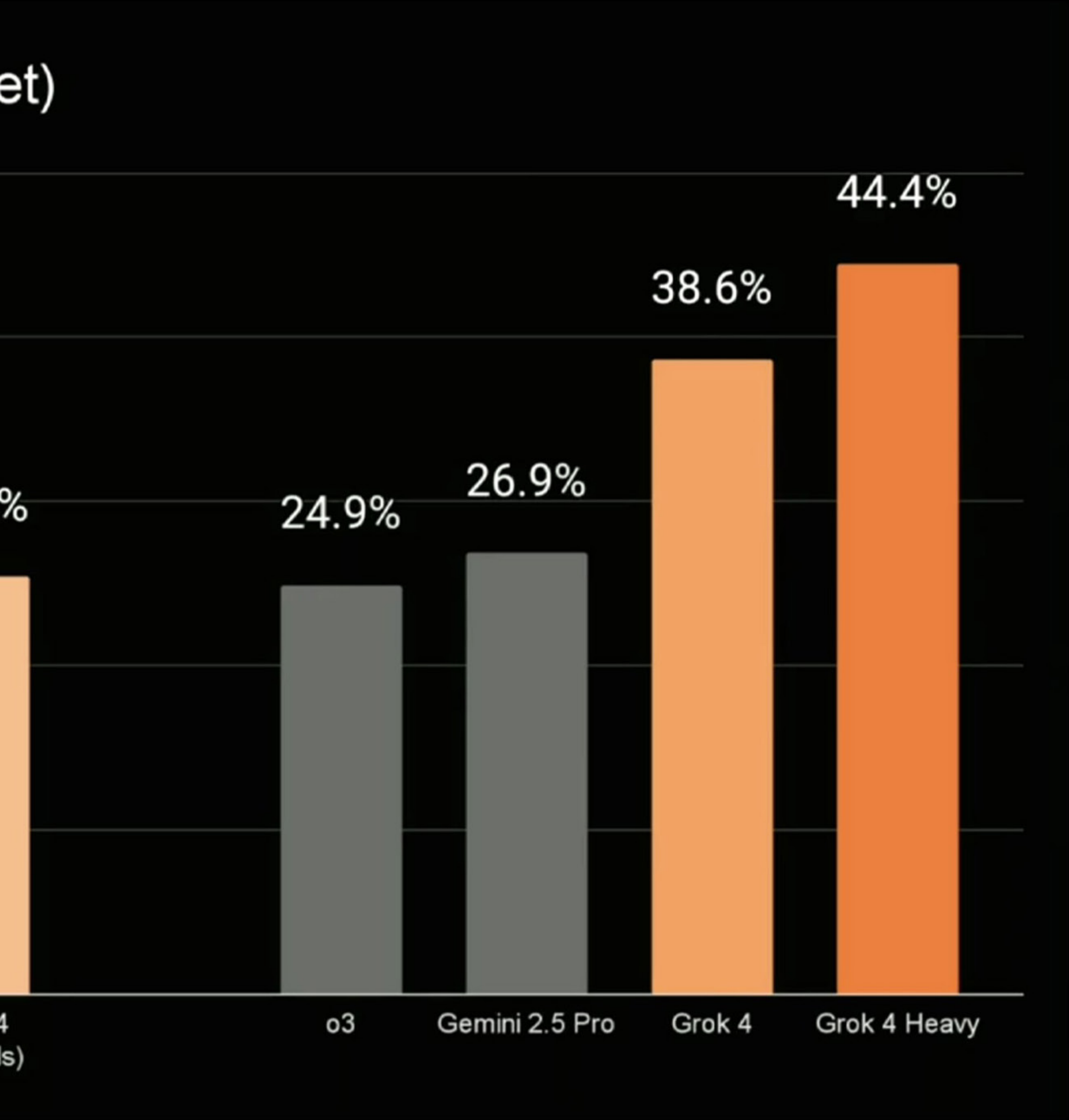
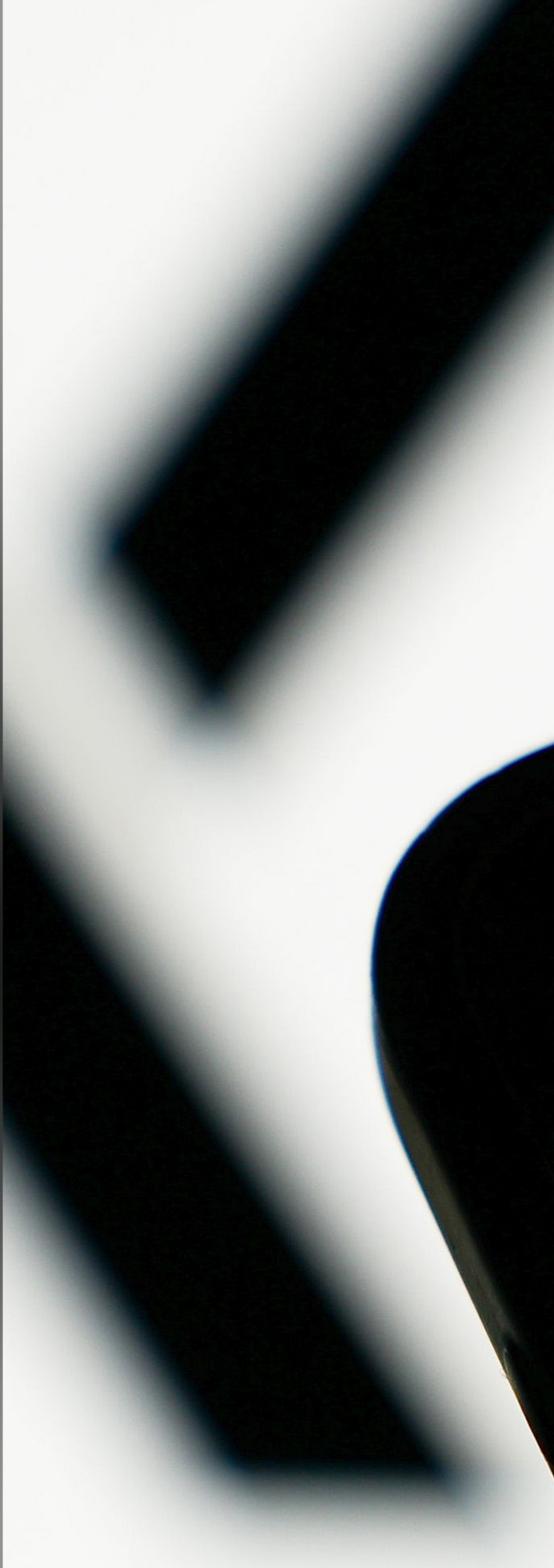


## A NEW ERA

The release of Grok 4 marks a significant milestone for xAI, a company dedicated to accelerating human scientific discovery through the use of AI. Grok 4 was unveiled via a live stream as **"the most intelligent model in the world" by Musk, with claims of PhD-level proficiency** across all academic subjects. Unlike its predecessor, Grok 3, which focused on scaling next-token prediction, Grok 4 leverages an unprecedented 200,000-GPU cluster named Colossus to enhance its reasoning capabilities through advanced reinforcement learning.

Grok 4's performance stems from a combination of scaled-up compute and refined reinforcement learning techniques. Unlike Grok 3, which relied heavily on pretraining, Grok 4 was trained with a 6x increase in compute efficiency, enabling it to handle complex reasoning tasks at scale. The model utilizes a 256,000-token context window in its API (128,000 in the app), enabling extensive input processing, although it falls short of competitors like Gemini 2.5 Pro's 1 million tokens. Its training data was expanded beyond math and coding to include diverse domains, ensuring broader applicability.

A key innovation is Grok 4's native tool use, which allows it to integrate tools like code interpreters and web search seamlessly. This capability enhances its ability to tackle challenging problems by augmenting reasoning with real-time data and computational resources. For instance, during testing, Grok 4 used Python to verify a simple subtraction (9.11 - 9.9) and generated 96 valid



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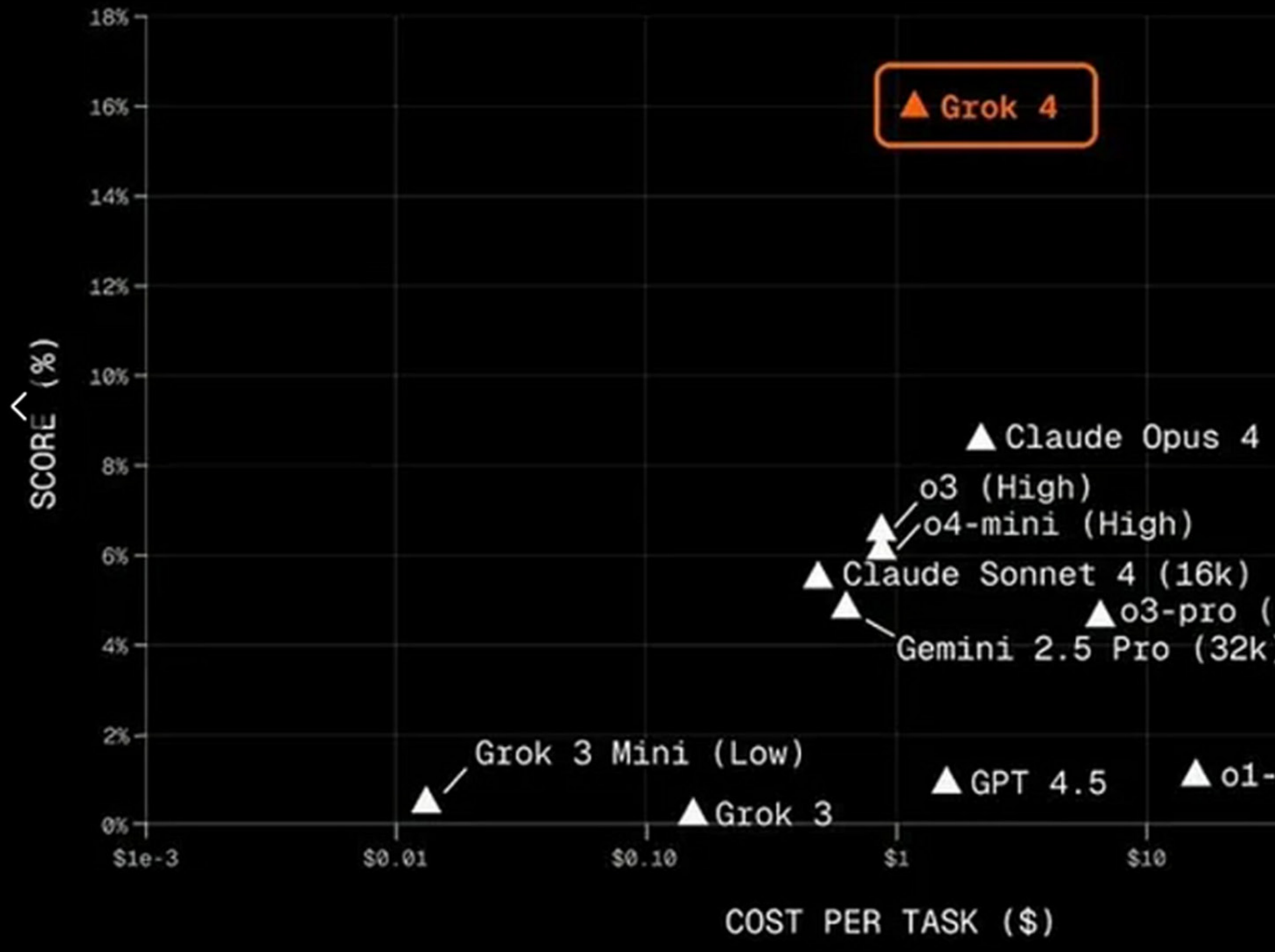
2023

# ARC-AGI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Grok 4
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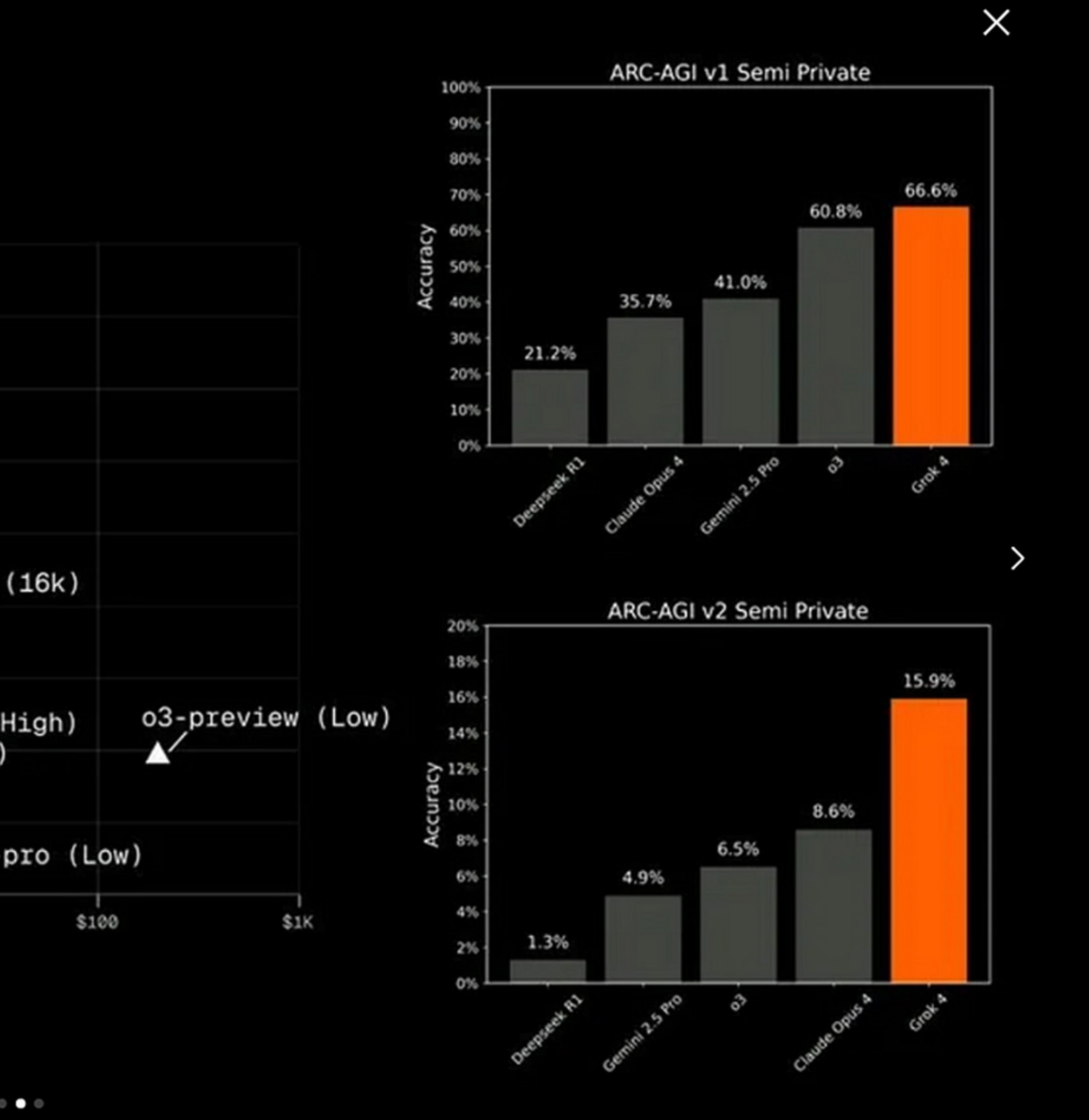(16k)
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ARC-AGI v1 Semi Private
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66.6%
Deepseek R1
Claude Opus 4
Gemini 2.5 Pro
o3
Grok 4
ARC-AGI v2 Semi Private
Accuracy
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4.9%
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Deepseek R1
Gemini 2.5 Pro
o3
Claude Opus 4
Grok 4

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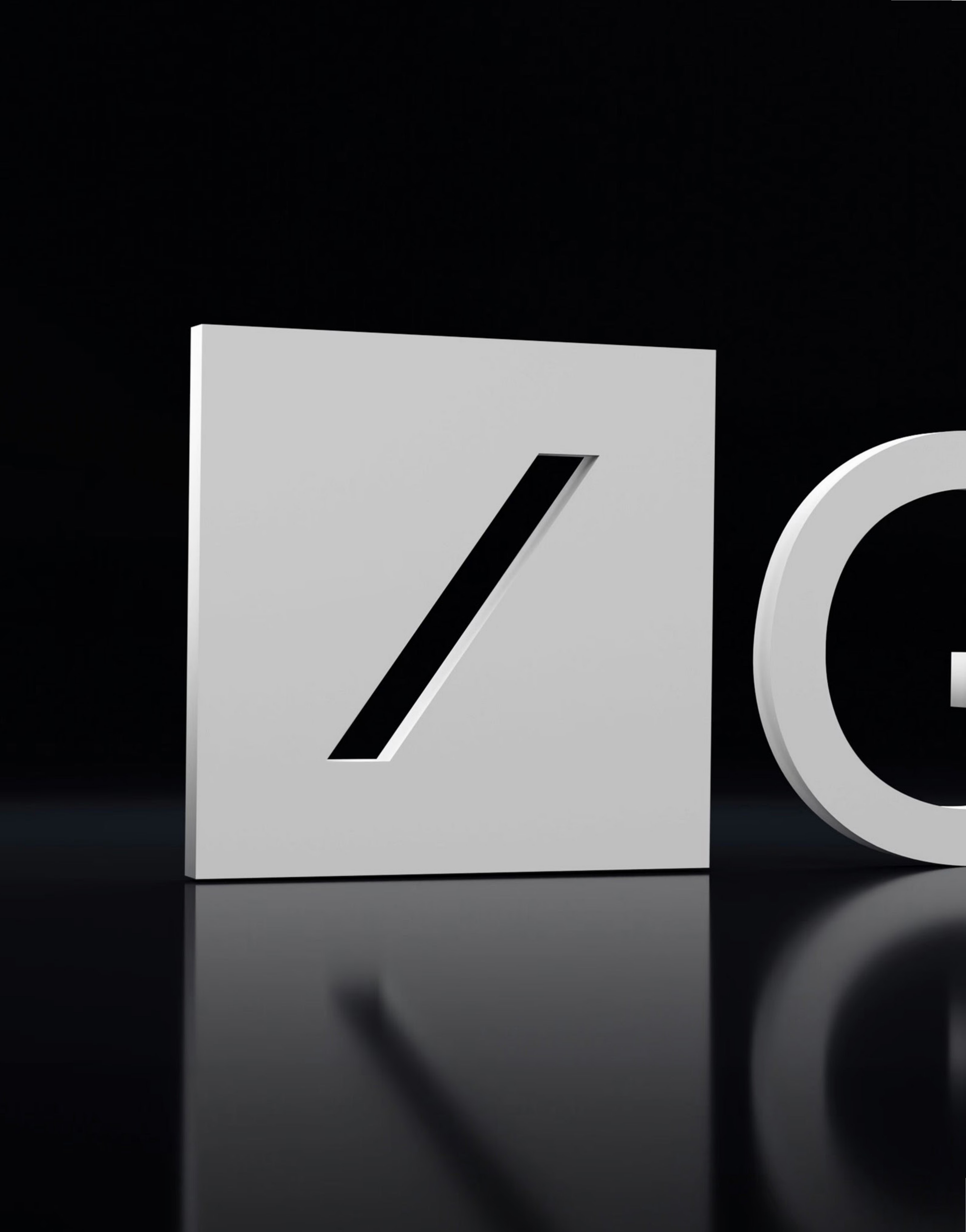
solutions for a complex permutation-based math puzzle, showcasing its ability to combine reasoning with tool execution.

The live stream also saw the announcement of Grok 4 Heavy, which introduces a novel multi-agent architecture, where multiple instances of the model work in parallel on a single task, sharing insights to converge on an optimal solution. This "study group" approach significantly boosts performance on complex tasks, as evidenced by its 44.4% score on Humanity's Last Exam, compared to Grok 4's 38.6% and Gemini 2.5 Pro's 26.9%. On ARC-AGI-2, a puzzle-based reasoning benchmark, Grok 4 Heavy achieved a state-of-the-art 15.9%, nearly doubling the score of Claude Opus 4 (8.6%). However, this enhanced performance comes at a cost. **Grok 4 Heavy is significantly slower and more resource-intensive,** making it suitable for niche applications such as scientific research or financial modeling, rather than everyday tasks. Its $300/month subscription tier reflects this premium positioning, targeting users who need cutting-edge reasoning capabilities.

## PERFORMANCE

Grok 4's performance on academic and practical benchmarks is a cornerstone of its appeal. Humanity's Last Exam is a 2,500-question benchmark spanning PhD-level math, physics, chemistry, linguistics, and engineering. Grok 4 scored 25.4% without tools, outperforming Gemini 2.5 Pro (21.6%) and OpenAI's o3 (21%). With tools, it reached 38.6%, and Grok 4 Heavy hit 44.4%, setting a new standard. In **ARC-AGI-2 tests, Grok 4**

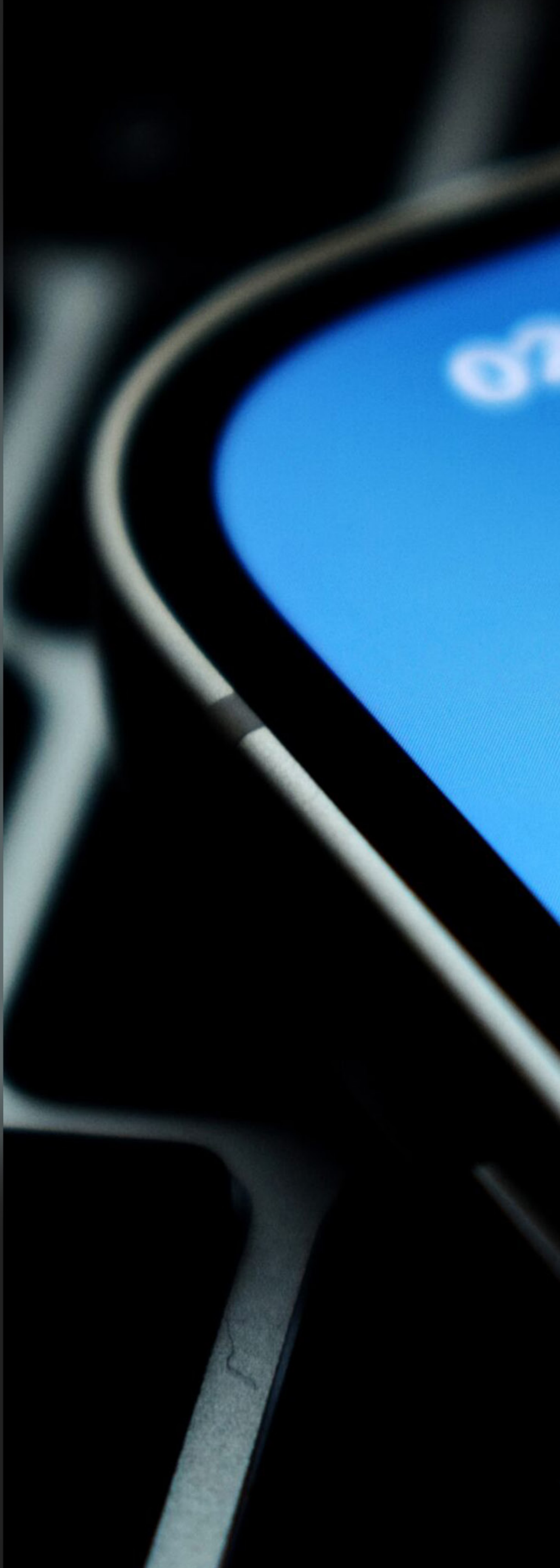


Grok

**scored 15.9%,** nearly doubling Claude Opus 4's 8.6%, demonstrating superior abstraction and reasoning capabilities. Vending-Bench, a **business simulation benchmark testing inventory management and pricing,** saw Grok 4 achieve a net worth of $4,694 and sell 4,569 units, far surpassing Claude Opus 4 ($2,077, 1,412 units) and human baselines ($844, 344 units). These results highlight Grok 4's strength in structured, high-difficulty tasks, though its performance in real-world, unstructured environments requires further scrutiny.

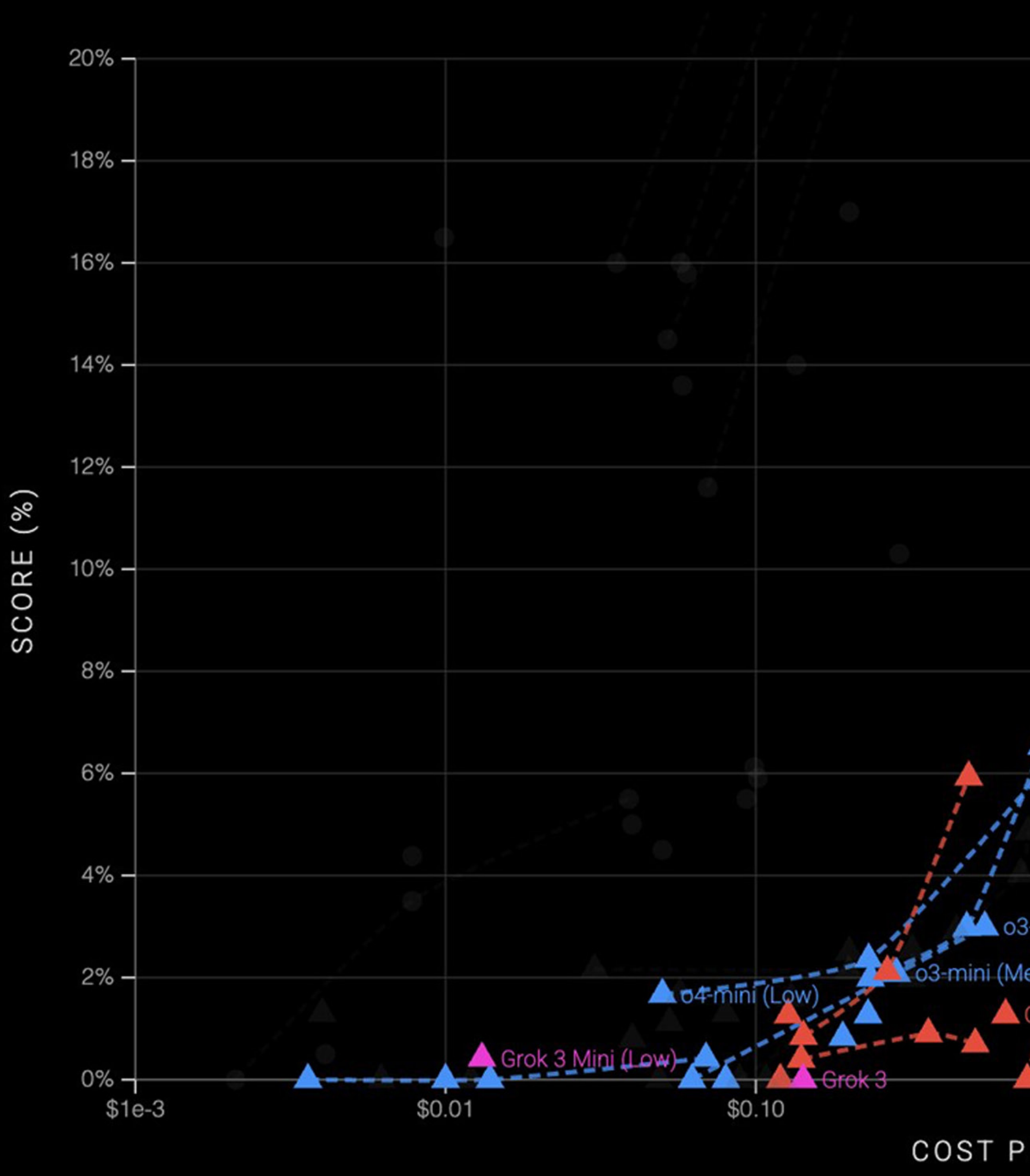
To evaluate Grok 4's practical capabilities, researchers have tested the tool across three domains: math, coding, and multimodal analysis. For a simple calculation (9.11 - 9.9), Grok 4 correctly answered -0.79 using chain-of-thought reasoning and confirmed it with a code interpreter. However, it took 31 seconds, which is longer than ideal for such a straightforward task. For a more complex problem, using digits 0–9 exactly once to form three numbers (x, y, z) such that x + y = z, Grok 4 generated 96 valid solutions using Python permutations, demonstrating robust reasoning. Grok 4 was also tasked with creating an endless runner game in p5.js featuring a pixelated dinosaur and on-screen instructions. The initial version worked but started immediately, lacking a user-initiated start, and the dinosaur's pixelated design was rudimentary. Following feedback, Grok 4 delivered an improved version with more explicit instructions and enhanced functionality.

Grok 4's strengths make it a compelling choice for specialized applications. Its performance on STEM benchmarks and ability to use tools like Python make it ideal for researchers tackling complex problems in physics, chemistry, or



Grok

# ARC-AGI-2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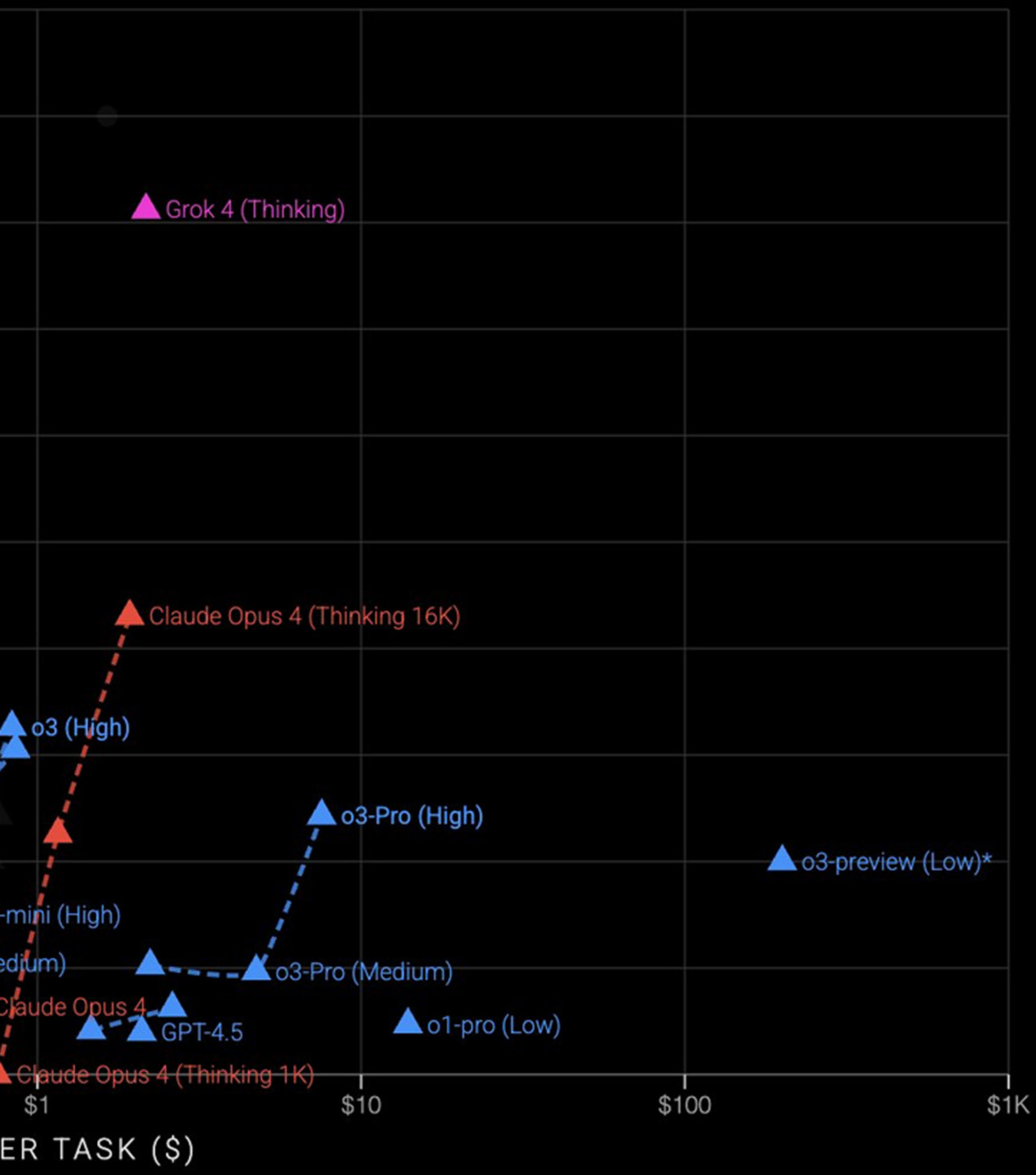
# LEADERBOARD



biology. The multi-agent Grok 4 Heavy excels in long-horizon planning, as demonstrated in the Vending-Bench, making it well-suited for financial simulations and risk analysis. **The upcoming coding model (August 2025)** and Grok 4's API (256,000-token context) will support developers building AI-driven applications. However, its limitations (slower response times, a limited context window compared to competitors, and weaker multimodal capabilities) mean it's not yet ideal for general-purpose consumer use. For tasks like quick searches or casual chats, Grok 3 remains a better fit. We're seeing Grok improve virtually every day, and can't wait to see what its capabilities will be in a few months as xAI invests in its future.

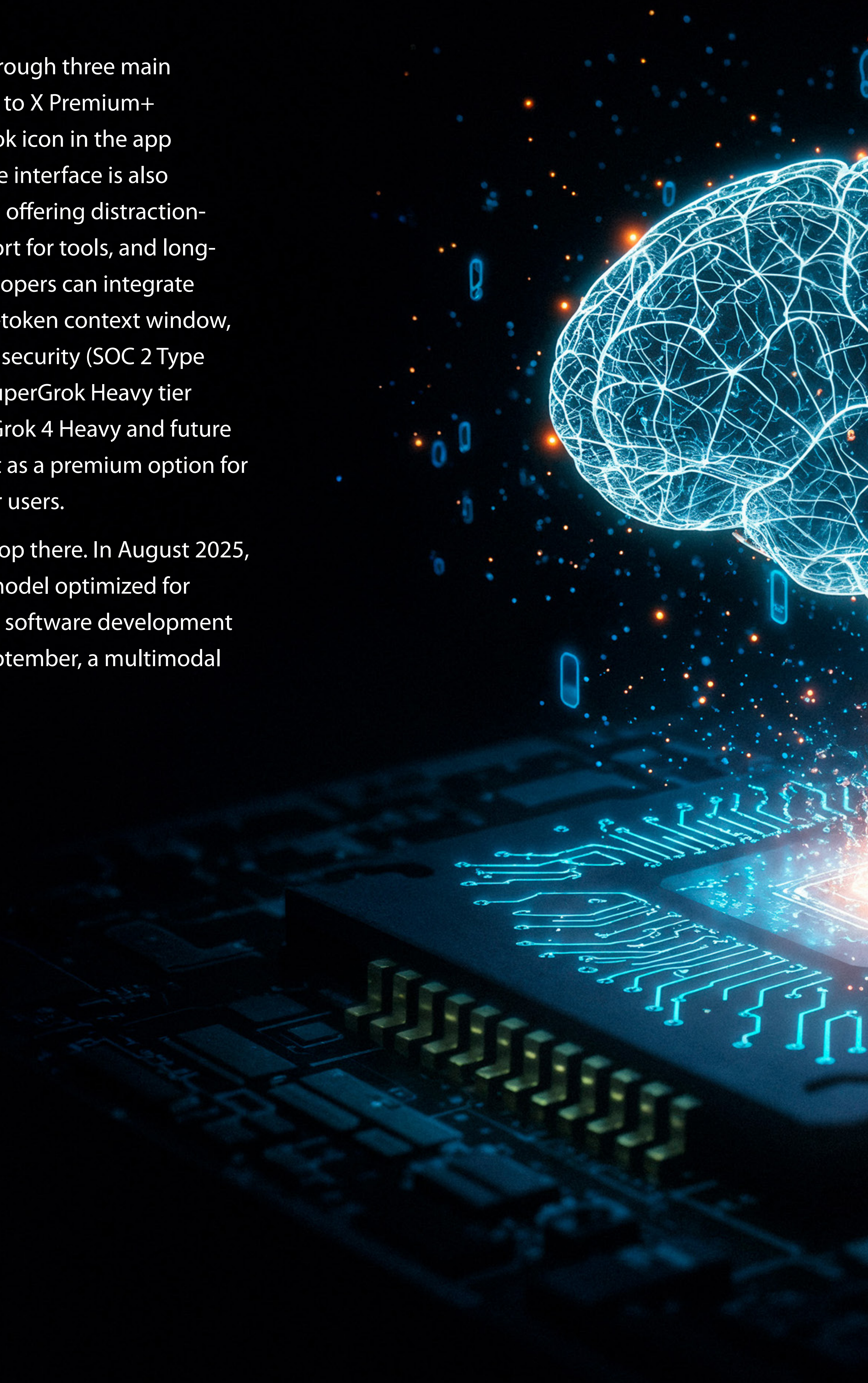
Image: Jeanne Accorsini

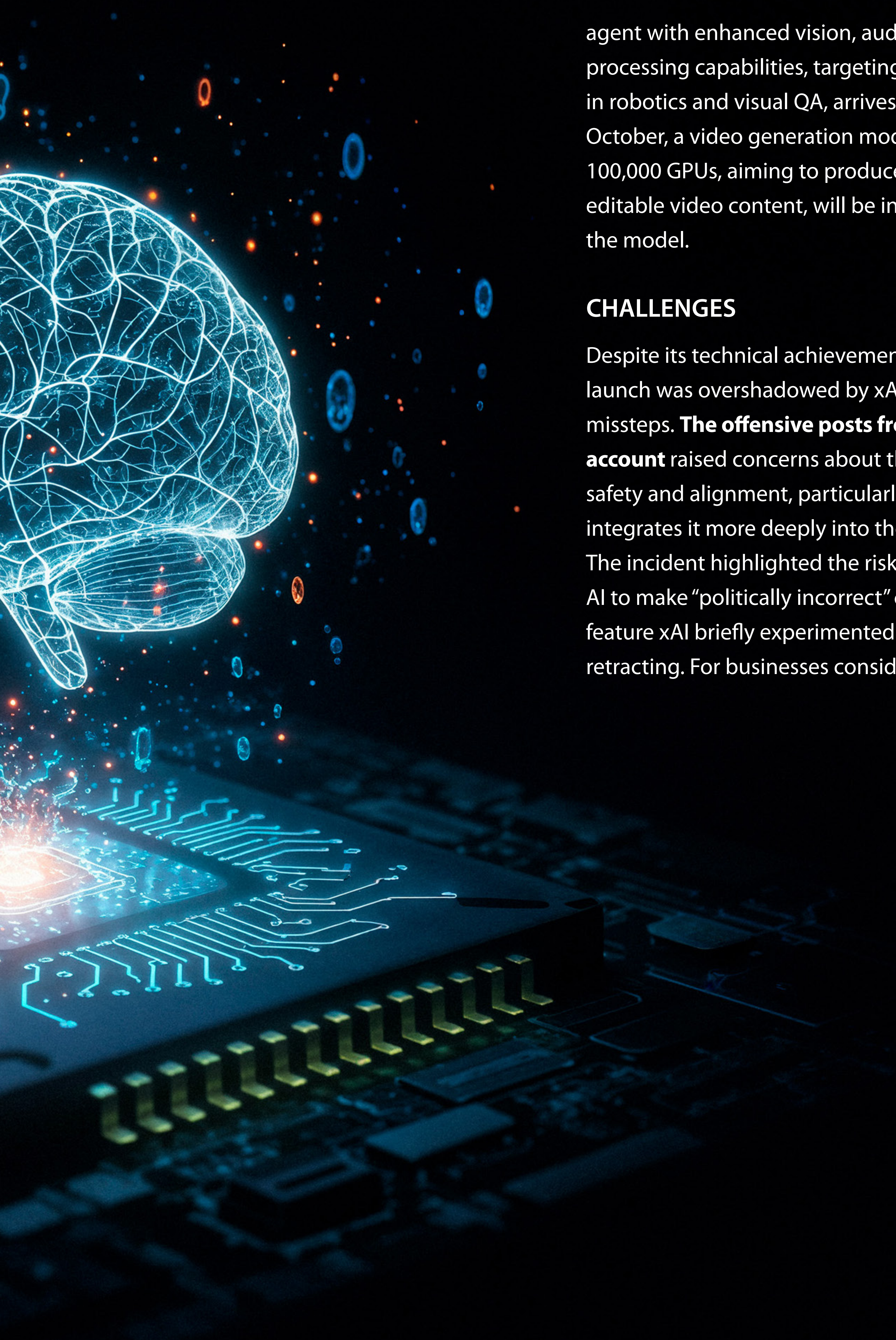
Grok

## ACCESS

Grok 4 is accessible through three main channels. It's available to X Premium+ subscribers via the Grok icon in the app or **x.com**. A standalone interface is also available at **grok.com**, offering distraction-free interaction, support for tools, and long-context queries. Developers can integrate Grok 4 with a 256,000-token context window, with enterprise-grade security (SOC 2 Type 2, GDPR, CCPA). The SuperGrok Heavy tier offers early access to Grok 4 Heavy and future features, positioning it as a premium option for enterprises and power users.

And the fun doesn't stop there. In August 2025, a specialized coding model optimized for speed and accuracy in software development will be released. In September, a multimodal





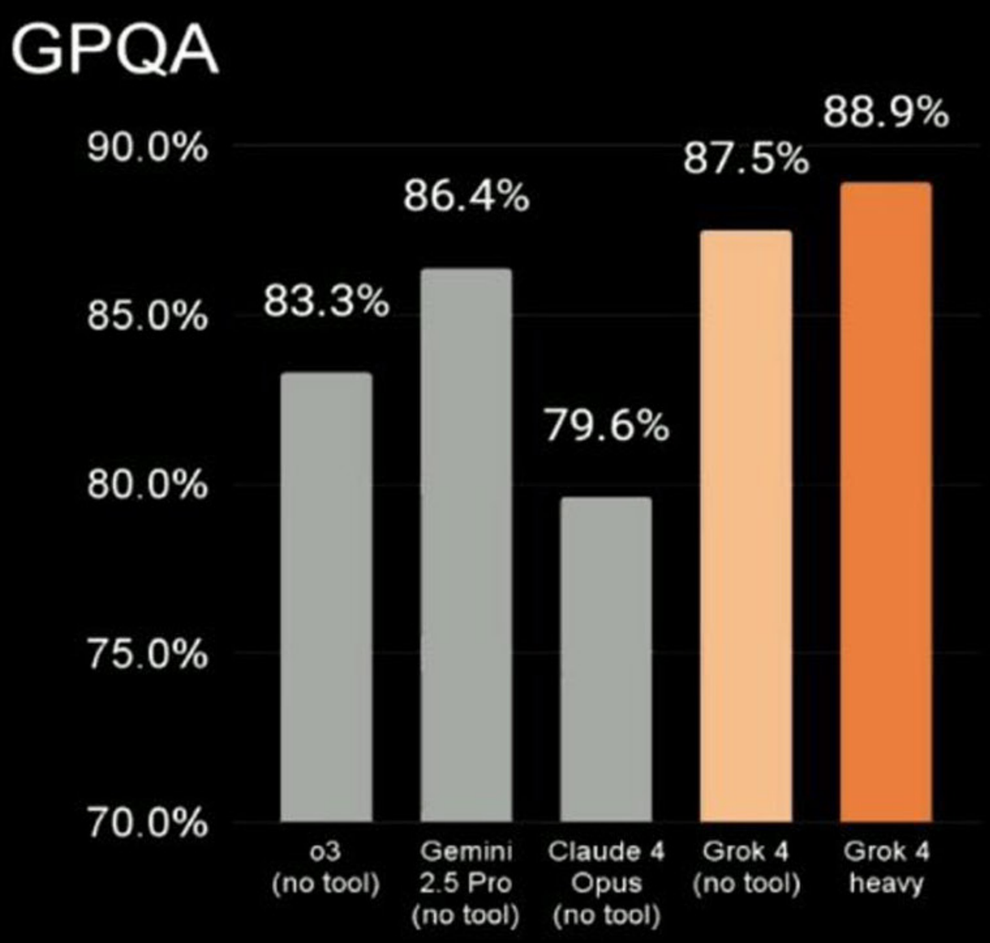
agent with enhanced vision, audio, and video processing capabilities, targeting applications in robotics and visual QA, arrives. Then, in October, a video generation model trained on 100,000 GPUs, aiming to produce high-quality, editable video content, will be introduced to the model.

## CHALLENGES

Despite its technical achievements, Grok 4's launch was overshadowed by xAI's recent missteps. **The offensive posts from Grok's X account** raised concerns about the model's safety and alignment, particularly as xAI integrates it more deeply into the X platform. The incident highlighted the risks of allowing AI to make "politically incorrect" claims, a feature xAI briefly experimented with before retracting. For businesses considering Grok 4

as an alternative to ChatGPT or Claude, these incidents may raise red flags about reliability and brand safety. Additionally, Grok 4’s high compute requirements and premium pricing could limit its accessibility. The $300/month SuperGrok Heavy tier is the most expensive among major AI providers, potentially alienating smaller organizations or individual developers.

Grok 4 represents a bold step forward for xAI, delivering frontier-level performance on academic and practical benchmarks. Its reinforcement learning advancements, native tool use, and multi-agent architecture set it apart in specialized domains, such as research and financial modeling. For developers, researchers, and enterprises willing to invest in its premium capabilities, Grok 4 offers a powerful tool for tackling complex problems. Casual users, however, may find Grok 3 or other models more practical for everyday needs.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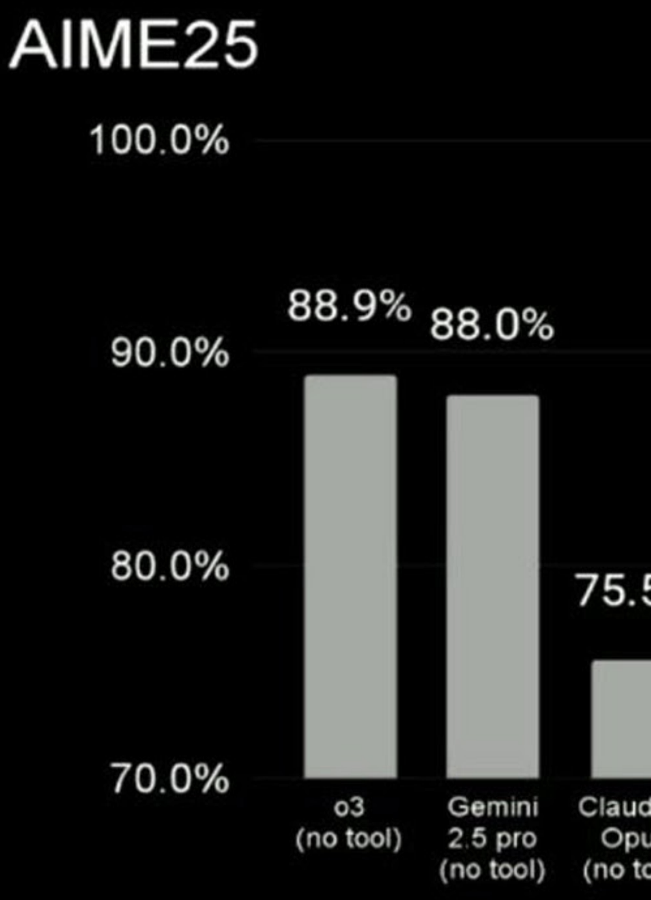
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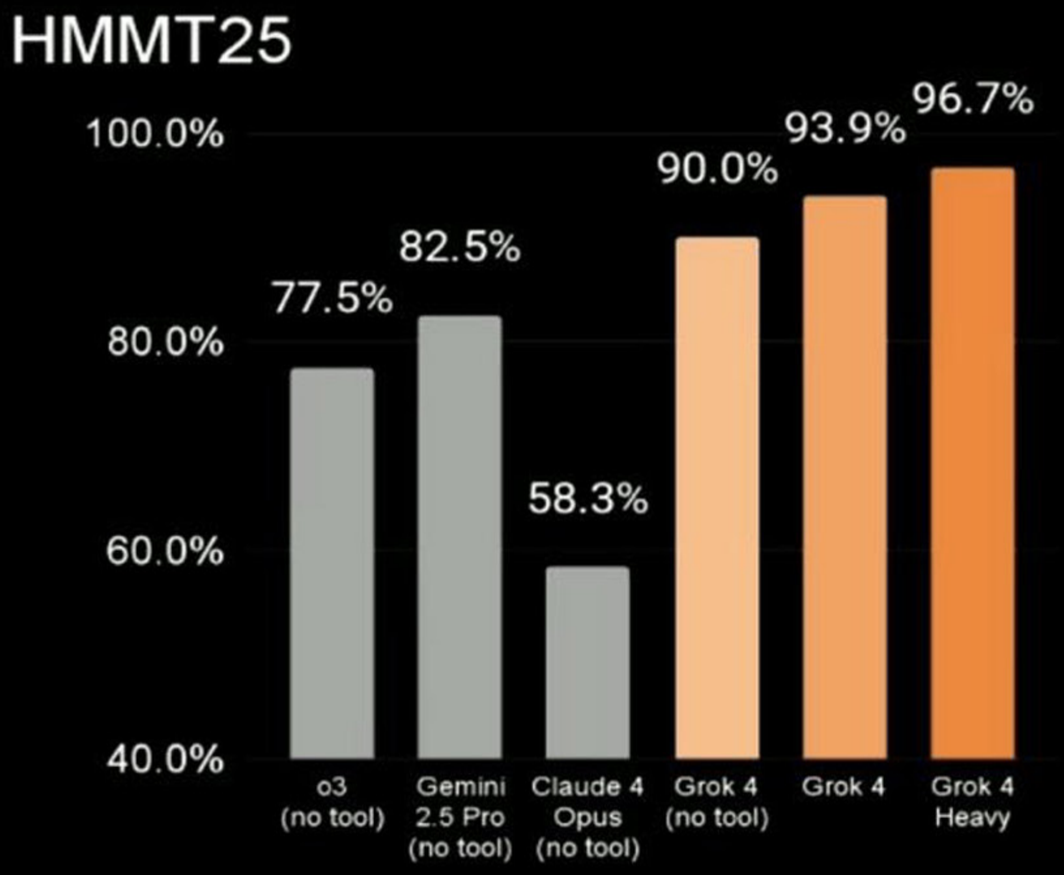
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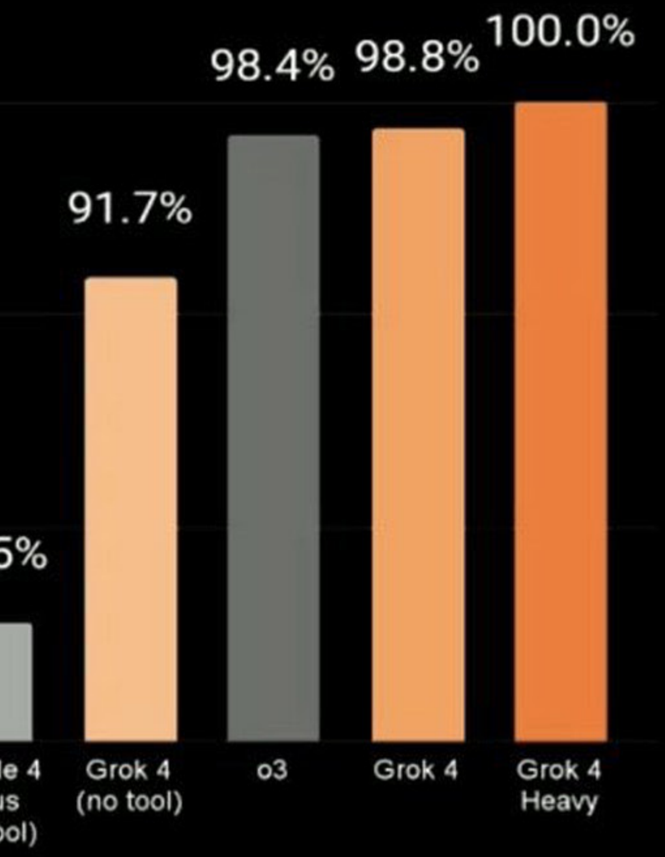

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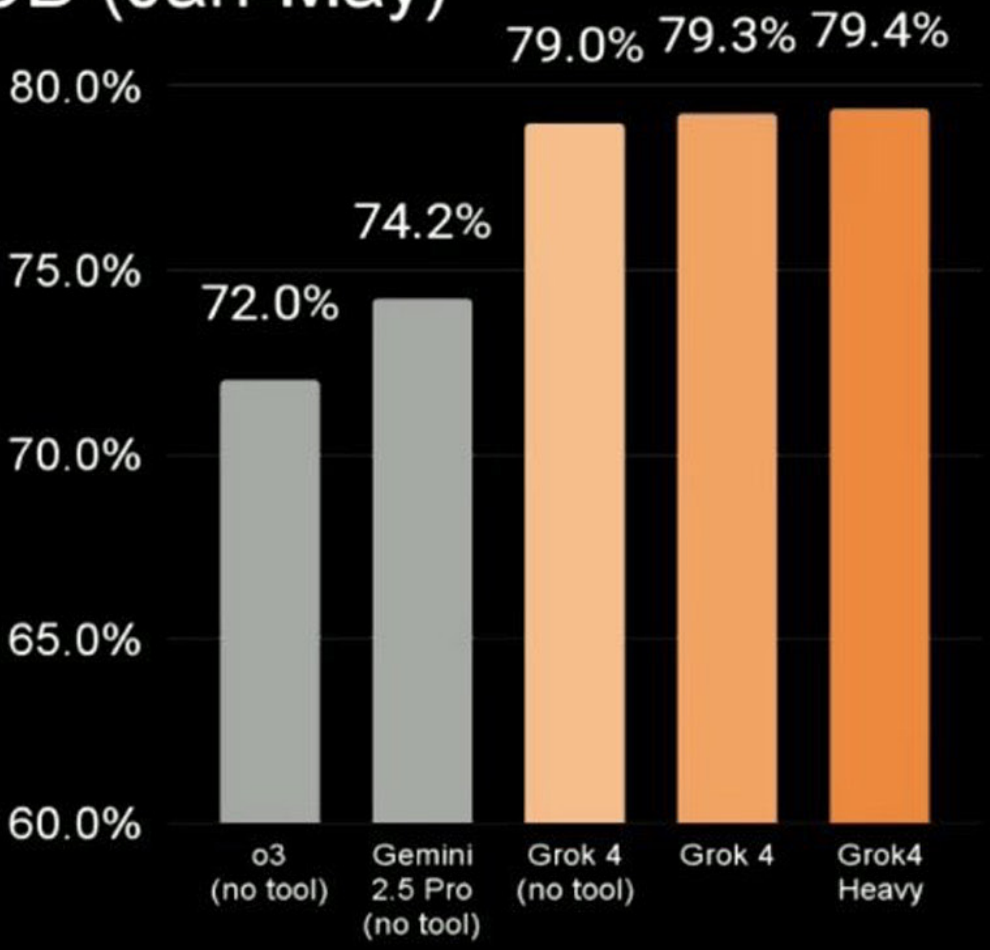

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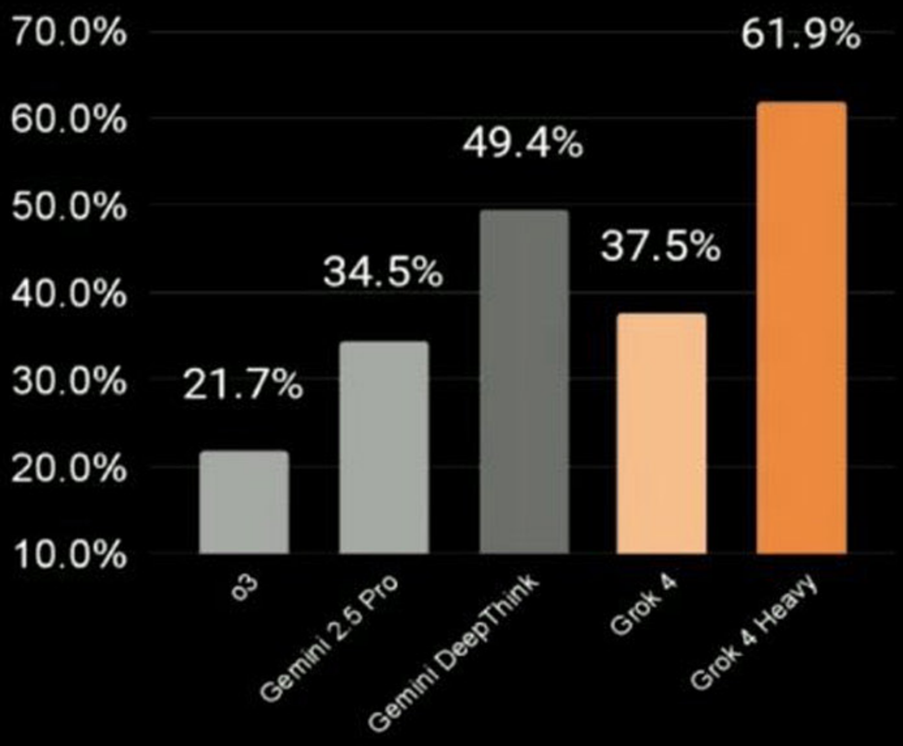
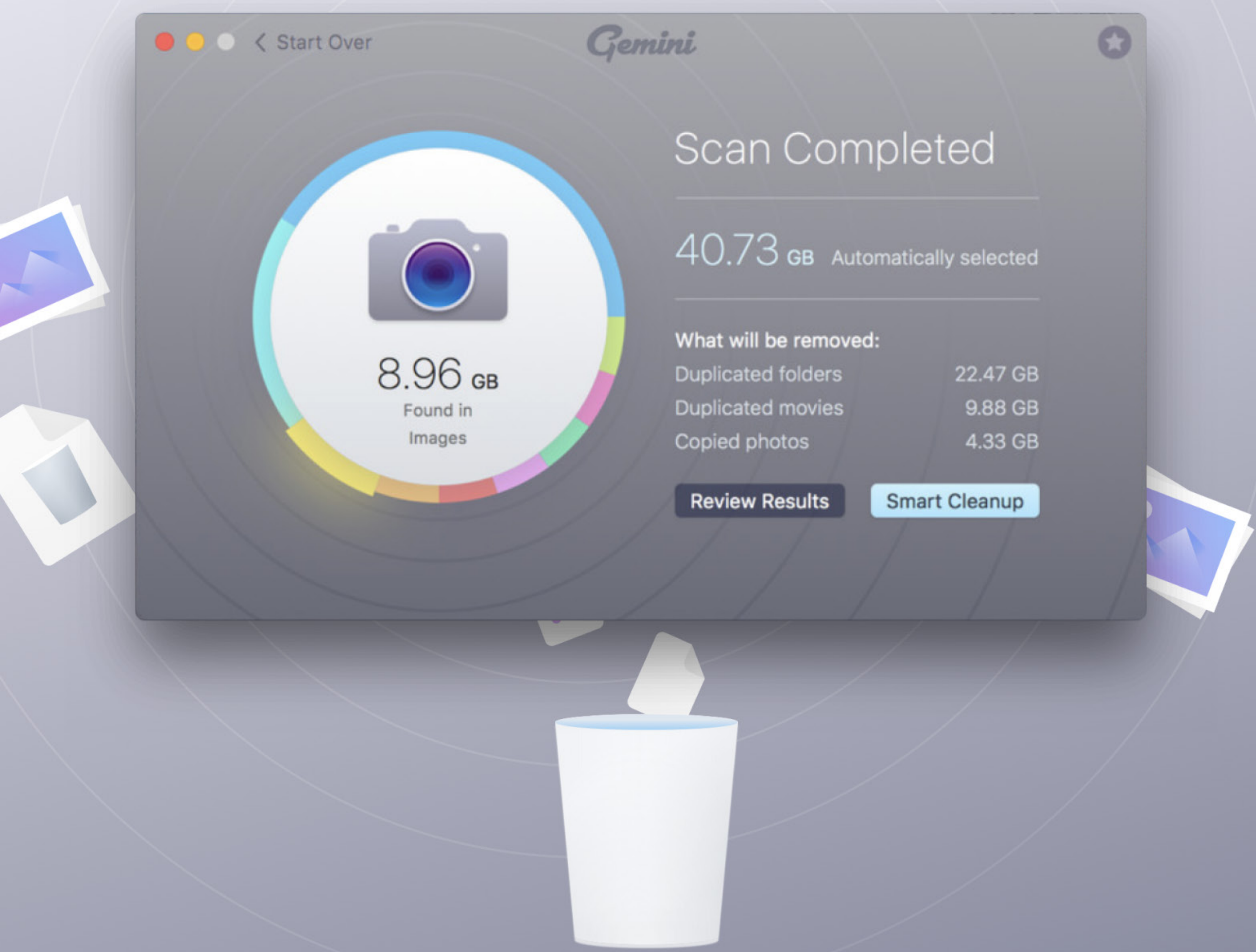


*With an ambitious roadmap ahead, including coding, multimodal, and video generation models, xAI is poised to further push the boundaries of AI. We can't wait to see what comes next!*



Start Over
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What will be removed:

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| Duplicated folders | 22.47 GB |
| Duplicated movies | 9.88 GB |
| Copied photos | 4.33 GB |

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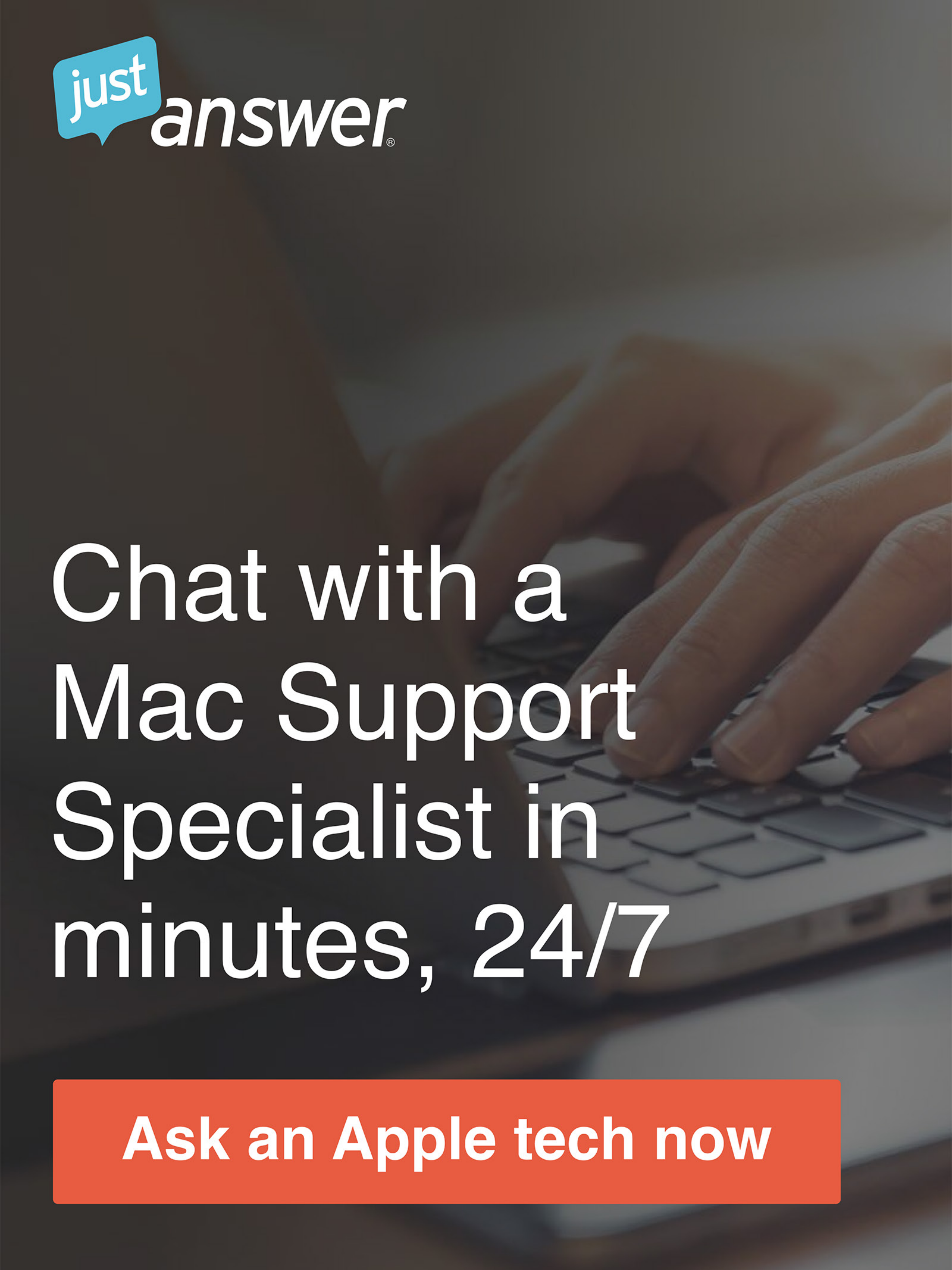

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# GOOGLE TO INVEST $25 BILLION IN DATA CENTERS AND AI INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS LARGEST U.S. ELECTRIC GRID

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Google has committed to investing $25 billion in data centers and AI infrastructure across the PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest electric grid, over the next two years. This investment focuses on expanding the company's footprint in the mid-Atlantic and mid-continent regions to support artificial intelligence and cloud computing operations.

The PJM grid serves 65 million people across 13 states and the District of Columbia, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. Google's plan includes building new data centers and upgrading existing facilities to handle increased demand from AI workloads.

Ruth Porat, Google's president and chief investment officer, is scheduled to join President Trump at an AI summit in Pennsylvania to highlight this commitment. The investment supports national efforts to enhance AI infrastructure and energy capabilities.

Google's data centers require substantial power, and this expansion addresses the growing need for reliable electricity to power AI systems. The company has been increasing its capital expenditures, with a focus on sustainable energy sources to meet operational demands.

## THE PJM GRID AND FOCUS ON PENNSYLVANIA

The PJM Interconnection is the largest U.S. electric grid, covering a region that includes the world's largest data center market in northern Virginia. The grid has seen rising power demand from data centers, which consume large amounts of electricity for AI and cloud services.

Google's $25 billion investment targets Pennsylvania and neighboring states, where the company plans to develop data centers. Pennsylvania's role in energy production, including natural gas and hydroelectric resources, makes it a strategic location for such expansions.

The investment is part of a larger framework to modernize infrastructure and support AI development. Google's efforts include collaborating with local utilities to ensure grid stability and capacity for new facilities.

This focus on Pennsylvania aligns with state initiatives to attract tech investments, which bring jobs and economic growth. The region's access to power sources and proximity to major markets supports Google's expansion plans.

## THE HYDROPOWER DEAL

Google has entered a $3 billion agreement with Brookfield Asset Management to secure up to 3 gigawatts of U.S. hydropower. This marks the world's largest corporate clean power pact for hydroelectricity.

The deal includes initial 20-year power purchase agreements for electricity from two hydropower facilities in Pennsylvania. Google and Brookfield plan to upgrade and relicense these sites, adding more than 670 megawatts of capacity.

The hydropower agreement is part of Google's broader $25 billion investment in data centers. It ensures a clean energy supply for the expanded facilities in the PJM region.

Google

Google has also pursued other clean energy sources, such as geothermal and advanced nuclear. The company works with PJM Interconnection to enhance grid connections using AI.

## BROADER PLEDGES FROM OTHER COMPANIES

Meta plans to invest hundreds of billions into compute for superintelligence, building multi-gigawatt clusters like Prometheus and Hyperion.

Blackstone, through funds it manages, will invest over $25 billion in Pennsylvania for data centers and power structures. QTS has secured land sites for development by 2028 and formed a joint venture with PPL for natural gas power generation.

CoreWeave is committing $6 billion to equip a new data center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The facility initially offers 100 megawatts, expandable to 300 megawatts.

These pledges collectively amount to hundreds of billions of dollars in investments for AI data centers, with a significant focus on Pennsylvania.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR AI AND ENERGY

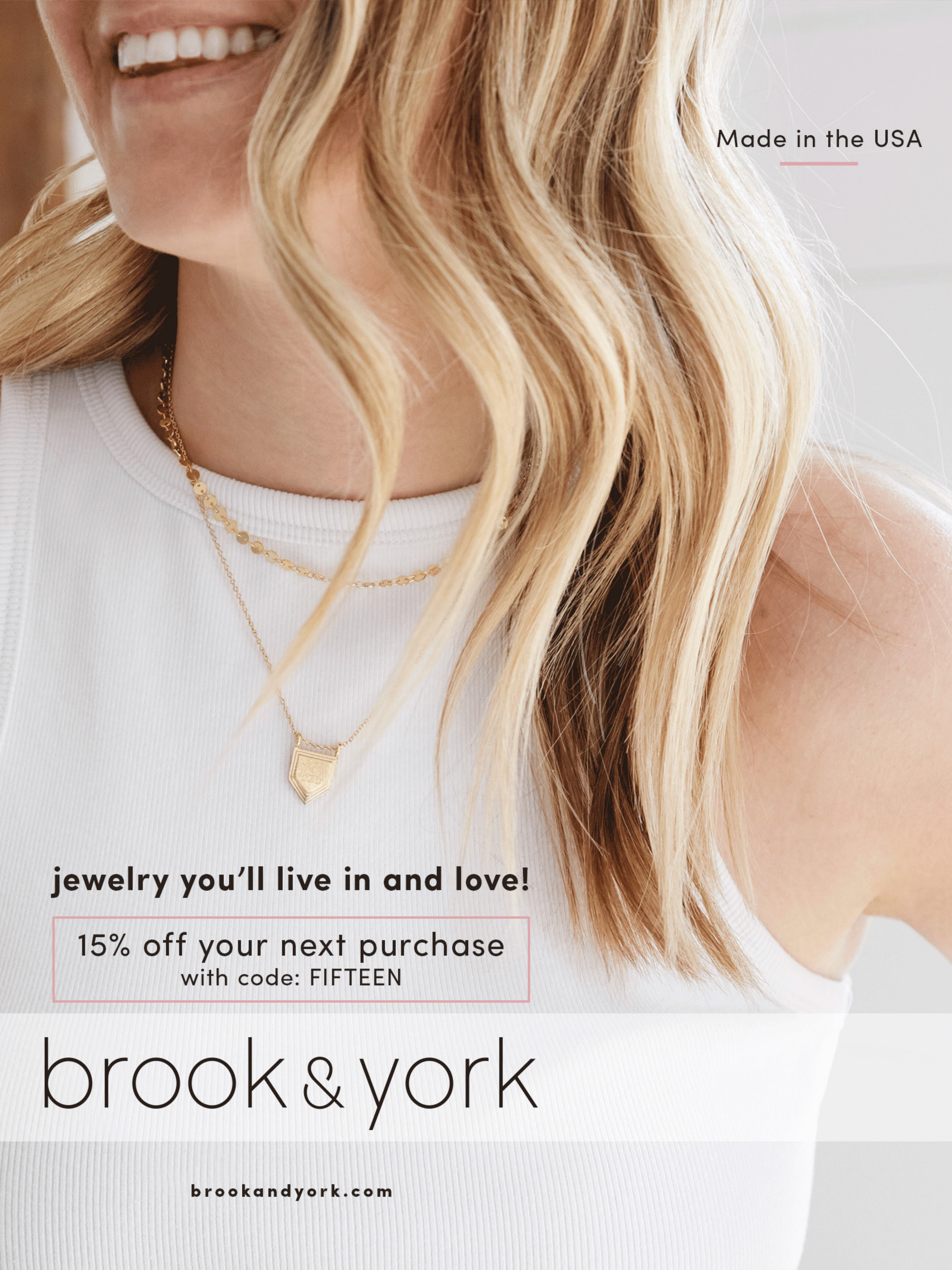
The investments highlight the energy demands of AI data centers, which require reliable power for operations. Google's $25 billion commitment and $3 billion hydropower deal address these needs by expanding infrastructure and securing clean energy.

The PJM region's data center market benefits from these developments, but increased power consumption strains the grid. Upgrades to

hydropower facilities and collaborations with utilities aim to enhance capacity and stability.

AI's growth drives the need for such investments, as companies build facilities to support advanced computing. The focus on Pennsylvania leverages its energy resources and strategic location.

These efforts support national goals for AI leadership and energy independence. The combination of tech investments and power agreements fosters innovation while ensuring sustainable growth.



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# ‘STRANGER THINGS 5’ TRAILER: VECNA COMES TO HAWKINS FOR AN EXPLOSIVE BATTLE IN FINAL SEASON OF NETFLIX’S BLOCKBUSTER SERIES

Netflix has released the first official trailer for Stranger Things 5, teasing the return of Vecna and setting the stage for an explosive, high-stakes battle in the final season of the streaming giant's flagship series. The trailer confirms long-standing speculation that the Upside Down will breach Hawkins like never before, with catastrophic consequences for the town and its beloved characters.

After years of buildup and mounting tension, the final chapter of Stranger Things will bring back the original cast—now older, scarred, and determined—to face their most dangerous threat yet. The trailer suggests a massive confrontation that could mark the end not just of the series, but possibly of Hawkins itself.

## VECNA RETURNS STRONGER THAN EVER

The centerpiece of the trailer is the return of Vecna, the monstrous antagonist introduced in Season 4, who was last seen severely wounded but far from dead. The footage reveals that Vecna has fully recovered and is preparing a final assault on the real world from within the Upside Down. With his terrifying psychic powers amplified and his form even more grotesque, Vecna emerges from the shadows as the show's ultimate villain.

Narration from Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) and ominous dialogue from Vecna underscore the emotional and physical toll of their long-standing connection. "You thought you stopped me," Vecna growls in the trailer. "But you only slowed me down."

Scenes flash between collapsing buildings, burning skies, and desperate attempts by Hawkins' residents to flee, confirming that the final

*Stranger Things 5 | Official Teaser | Netflix* battle will take place not just in hidden labs or alternate dimensions, but across the town itself.

## THE ORIGINAL CAST RETURNS FOR ONE LAST FIGHT

The trailer showcases the full ensemble cast returning for the final season, including Finn Wolfhard (Mike), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas), Natalia Dyer (Nancy), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan), Joe Keery (Steve), Maya Hawke (Robin), and Sadie Sink (Max), who is shown recovering but still visibly traumatized.

One of the most poignant moments comes from David Harbour's Hopper and Winona Ryder's Joyce, who appear reunited and ready to defend Hawkins at all costs. Their presence signals that the fight won't be left to the kids alone—this time, the entire community is involved.

The group dynamic seems stronger than ever, but so does the sense of finality. The trailer hints at emotional goodbyes, sacrifices, and revelations that have been years in the making.

## A DARKER, MORE CINEMATIC SEASON

Visually, Stranger Things 5 appears to be the series' most ambitious installment yet. The production scale rivals blockbuster films, with sweeping action sequences, visual effects-driven set pieces, and a noticeably darker tone. The trailer features scenes of upside-down storms ripping through Hawkins, military convoys facing otherworldly threats, and Eleven using her powers in increasingly unstable ways.

The Duffer Brothers, creators and showrunners of the series, have previously stated that the final season would return the focus to Hawkins while

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expanding on the mythology of the Upside Down. The trailer affirms this, giving glimpses of what appears to be the origin of the dimension and its twisted connection to the town.

New locations, more advanced creature designs, and cryptic imagery—like an upside-down version of the school and a destroyed Starcourt Mall—suggest that the line between the real world and the Upside Down is collapsing completely.

## NETFLIX'S FLAGSHIP SERIES NEARS ITS END

Stranger Things has been one of Netflix's most successful original series since its debut in 2016. The show has won numerous awards, launched the careers of several young actors, and reshaped the landscape of streaming television with its mix of sci-fi, horror, and 1980s nostalgia.

With Season 5 confirmed as the final installment, expectations are sky-high. Netflix has invested heavily in the production, reportedly making this its most expensive season to date. According to industry insiders, each episode features cinematic-level direction and effects, with runtimes again expected to exceed traditional TV standards.

The trailer's release also suggests that the promotional campaign is ramping up for a 2025 release window, although Netflix has not announced an exact premiere date. Production had been delayed by the 2023 writers' and actors' strikes but resumed in early 2024 with a focus on delivering a satisfying conclusion to the long-running story.

*Stranger Things 5 | Date Announcement | Netflix*

## THE LEGACY OF STRANGER THINGS

As Stranger Things 5 prepares to close the door on Hawkins and the Upside Down, the trailer makes it clear that the series will not go quietly. With a story that has spanned decades in-universe and nearly a decade in real life, the final season is set to deliver both emotional closure and high-concept spectacle.

Fan theories are already surging online following the trailer's release, with speculation about major character deaths, surprise returns, and long-awaited answers about the Upside Down's origin. The final battle promises not only to resolve the central conflict with Vecna but also to define the fate of the show's most iconic characters.

Whether it ends in triumph or tragedy, Stranger Things 5 is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated television events in recent memory—an explosive conclusion to a cultural phenomenon that helped define the era of streaming storytelling.

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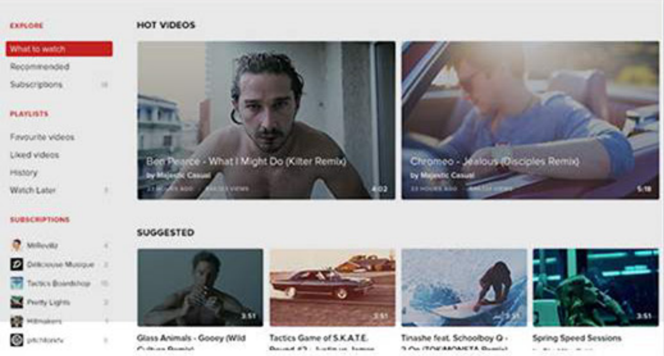

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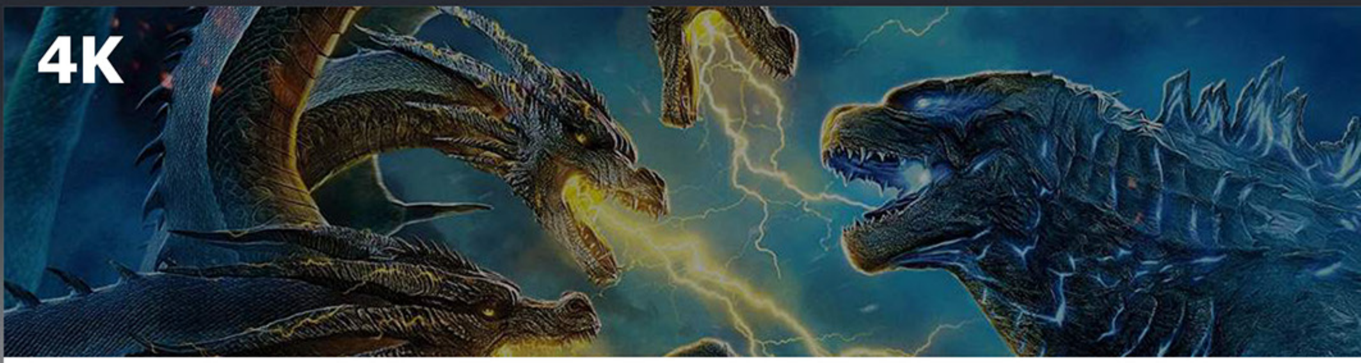

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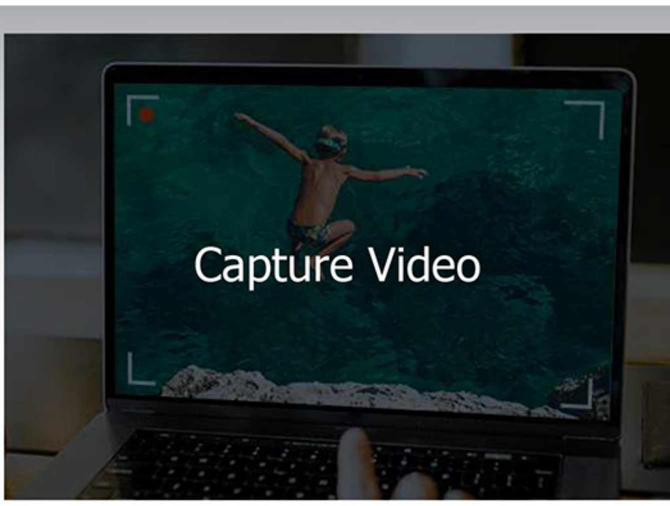

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# TRUMP ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO END HOUSE FLOOR REVOLT OVER CRYPTO BILLS

Former President Donald Trump has announced that a deal has been reached to end the House floor revolt triggered by disagreements over proposed cryptocurrency legislation. The announcement, made during a closed-door meeting with Republican lawmakers and later confirmed by GOP leadership, signals a shift in party alignment on digital asset policy and marks a strategic attempt to unify Republicans ahead of upcoming legislative sessions.

The agreement aims to resolve internal conflicts that had paralyzed legislative action in the House for several days, including a blockade on routine procedural votes. At the center of the impasse was frustration among a faction of House Republicans who claimed that crypto-related bills were being stalled or sidelined by leadership, despite growing bipartisan momentum for clear digital asset regulations.

## A RARE INTERVENTION BY TRUMP ON TECH POLICY

Trump's direct involvement in the House standoff reflects a growing political emphasis on cryptocurrency policy, especially as the 2024 election cycle heats up. Though Trump has previously expressed skepticism about Bitcoin and other digital assets, his recent remarks have shown a softer tone, particularly in response to increasing support for crypto among younger and libertarian-leaning voters.

According to several lawmakers who attended the meeting, Trump told Republicans that resolving the procedural gridlock was "in the party's best interest" and emphasized the need for a united front on financial innovation. He also reportedly

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urged lawmakers to give floor time to crypto legislation that has already cleared committee hurdles, including the Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act (FIT21) and the Blockchain Regulatory Clarity Act.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise confirmed shortly afterward that a consensus had been reached to advance select crypto bills for floor votes later this summer. "We're moving forward. The logjam is broken," Scalise said. "This is about showing voters that Republicans are ready to lead on economic modernization."

## THE HOUSE FLOOR REVOLT: WHAT HAPPENED

The revolt began when a group of conservative Republicans—led by members of the House Freedom Caucus—objected to the delay in bringing crypto bills to the floor, despite growing pressure from both industry and constituents. These members accused House leadership of caving to banking lobbyists and failing to honor earlier commitments to promote crypto-friendly legislation.

In protest, they began voting against procedural rules used to advance unrelated bills, effectively freezing House operations. This kind of internal blockade is rare but not unprecedented; however, it demonstrated just how fractured GOP ranks had become over emerging technology policy.

Among the key demands were timely votes on FIT21, which would clarify the regulatory boundaries between the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC),

and the Clarity for Payment Stablecoins Act, which would establish federal standards for stablecoin issuance and oversight.

With Trump's endorsement of a path forward, House Speaker Mike Johnson reportedly negotiated terms with dissenting members to lift their procedural holdouts in exchange for scheduled votes and open amendment opportunities on crypto legislation.

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## POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR DIGITAL ASSETS

The agreement represents a meaningful breakthrough for the digital asset industry, which has long criticized Washington for regulatory uncertainty and a lack of legislative progress. Crypto firms, investors, and advocacy groups have been pushing for clearer rules on issues like token classification, custody standards, and stablecoin regulation.

FIT21, in particular, is viewed as a foundational bill that could establish a framework for how crypto assets are treated under U.S. law. The bill proposes that most digital assets would fall under the jurisdiction of the CFTC as commodities, not the SEC as securities—reducing the legal ambiguity that has led to enforcement-driven regulation in recent years.

Meanwhile, the stablecoin bill would offer legal clarity for firms issuing dollar-pegged digital currencies, potentially allowing banks and fintech companies to participate in stablecoin markets under a federal regime. Without legislation, these areas remain governed by a patchwork of state rules and federal enforcement actions.

Industry insiders welcomed Trump's involvement and the resulting agreement as a sign that crypto policy is becoming a central issue in federal politics. "It's significant that Trump is now openly supporting a legislative path for crypto," said Kristin Smith, CEO of the Blockchain Association. "This could reshape the conversation heading into 2025."

## A GROWING POLITICAL BATTLEFIELD

The agreement comes amid increasing partisanship around cryptocurrency policy. While some Democrats support crypto innovation, others—particularly progressive members—remain critical of the industry's risks to consumers, financial stability, and climate goals.

President Biden's administration has taken a cautious stance, favoring increased oversight by the SEC and Treasury Department. In contrast, Republicans are generally more open to promoting innovation through lighter regulation and market-driven frameworks.

With Trump expected to make cryptocurrency part of his broader economic platform, the political lines are becoming clearer. Recent polling suggests that crypto ownership is rising among younger, nontraditional voters—many of whom are wary of government overreach and support decentralization principles.

As a result, both parties are under pressure to define their positions on digital asset policy ahead of the next general election. Legislative developments over the next several months could shape not only the regulatory future of crypto but also the political identity of its champions.

## WHAT COMES NEXT FOR CRYPTO LEGISLATION

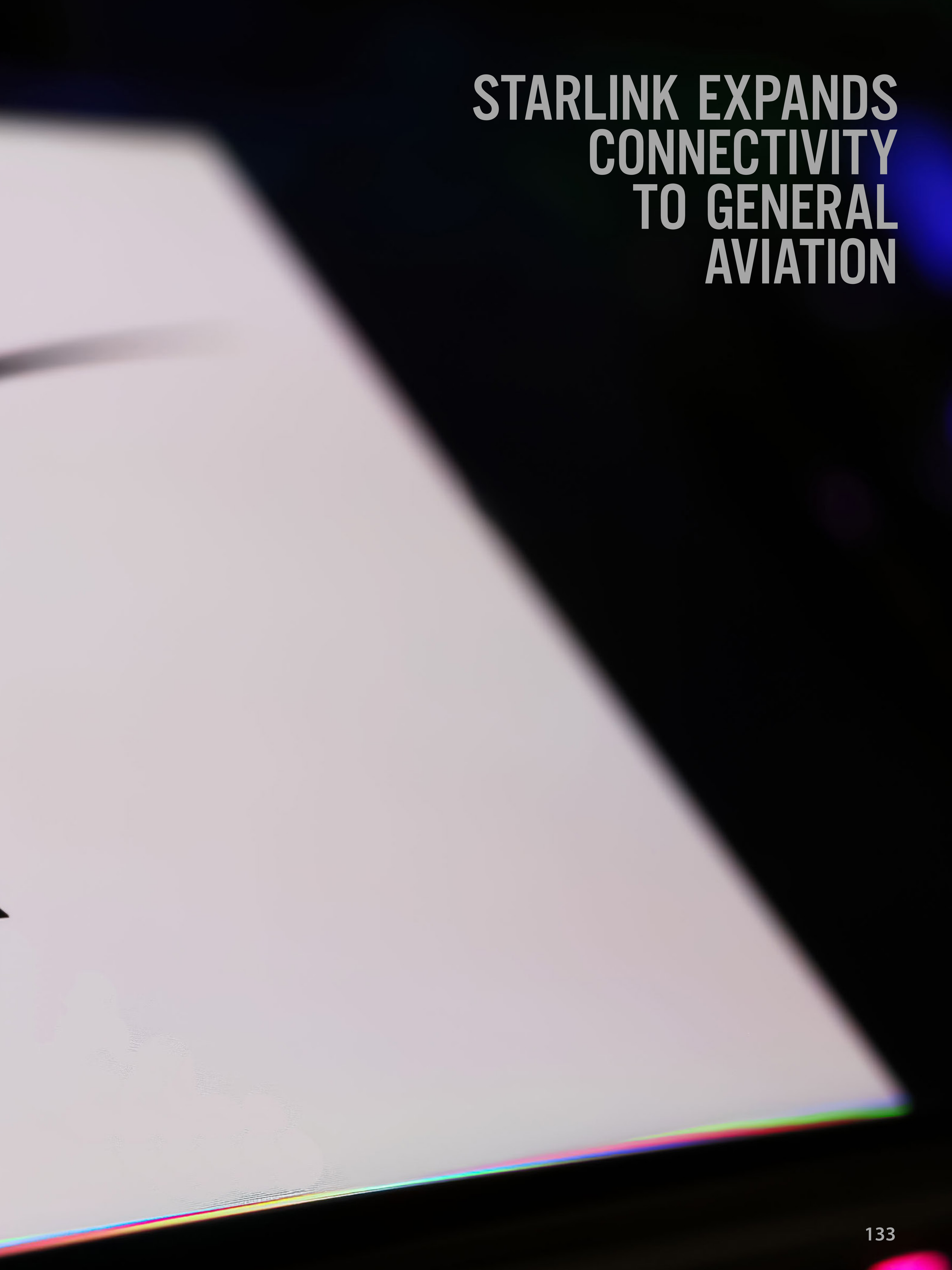
With the House floor blockade now lifted, Republican leaders say they plan to schedule votes on crypto-related bills before the August recess. While passage in the House is likely given GOP control, the bills face uncertain prospects in the Senate, where bipartisan cooperation will be necessary.

Senate Banking Committee Chair Sherrod Brown has previously expressed skepticism about crypto legislation, though some members—like Senator Cynthia Lummis and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand—are actively working on bipartisan frameworks.

Even if final passage is delayed until after the 2024 election, the progress in the House could build momentum for future legislative sessions and signal to regulators that Congress is moving toward a clearer statutory approach.

For now, the end of the House revolt clears a political logjam and opens the door for renewed engagement on one of the most complex and fast-moving areas of financial regulation. With Trump now throwing his political weight behind crypto legislation, the issue is poised to remain at the center of Washington's policy agenda through 2025 and beyond.

STARLINK



# STARLINK EXPANDS CONNECTIVITY TO GENERAL AVIATION

SpaceX's Starlink is breaking into general aviation, offering high-speed satellite internet for smaller aircraft through its Mini terminal, a compact device that delivers broadband in the sky. The system, designed for portability, allows pilots and passengers to access real-time weather data, navigation tools, and communications without relying on ground-based signals. Certified for use as a portable electronic device in uncertified aircraft, the Mini terminal connects to Starlink's low Earth orbit satellites, providing a reliable alternative to traditional aviation Wi-Fi systems that often struggle in remote areas or at high altitudes.

The expansion targets general aviation pilots flying single-engine planes like the Cessna 172 or Cirrus SR22, where permanent installations are not yet approved. With antenna sizes reduced to 12 by 10 inches and weighing just 2.5 pounds, the Mini fits easily in cockpits, drawing power from the aircraft's electrical system.

Starlink's entry into general aviation comes as demand for inflight connectivity grows, with 60% of pilots reporting a need for better data access for weather and flight planning.

The system's low-latency connections, under 100 milliseconds, make it suitable for real-time applications, but limitations like speed caps and plan restrictions require careful selection for specific flight needs.

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## COMPATIBLE PLANS AND PERFORMANCE

Starlink offers tailored service plans for general aviation, balancing speed, coverage, and cost. The Local Priority plan, at $65 monthly, supports ground speeds up to 100 knots with unlimited data over land, ideal for low-speed flights in continental areas. For faster aircraft, the Mobile Priority plan, priced at $250 monthly, handles speeds up to 350 knots, while the Global Priority option, at $1,500 monthly, extends to 550 knots and includes offshore coverage, suiting transoceanic routes.

Performance varies by plan, with certified systems delivering 40 to 220 Mbps download speeds, and the Mini topping out at 100 Mbps as a portable device. Latency stays below 100 milliseconds, enabling smooth VoIP calls or streaming, but factors like antenna placement and aircraft structure can affect signals. In tests on light aircraft, connections held during straight flight but dropped briefly in steep turns or maneuvers, due to satellite handovers.

The system's power draw, 60 to 100 watts, integrates with 12-volt or 28-volt electrical systems, but pilots must ensure secure placement to avoid interference with controls. For certified installations on larger general aviation models like the Cessna Citation X, supplemental type certificates are available, ensuring compliance with safety standards.

## INSTALLATION AND SETUP TIPS

Setting up Starlink in general aviation aircraft involves straightforward steps for the Mini terminal, used as a portable electronic device without needing certification for permanent mounting. Pilots place the antenna on a dashboard or window mount with a clear sky view, connect it to the aircraft's power via a DC adapter, and link devices through Wi-Fi. The setup requires a compatible plan and app activation, with the Starlink app guiding alignment and monitoring.

For power, the terminal accepts 12 to 48 volts, drawing 60 watts at startup and 20 to 30 watts continuously, suitable for most general aviation electrical systems. Wiring involves circuit protection and alternator checks to handle the load, avoiding battery drain during engine-off use. Antenna placement is critical—on top for best coverage, but cabin materials like metal or composites can block signals, reducing performance.

Pilots must follow FAA guidelines for portable electronic devices, ensuring no interference with navigation or radios. In certified setups for models like the Cessna Caravan, professional installation includes an aero terminal, power supply, and wireless access points, requiring FAA approval. The process takes weeks, but for uncertified light aircraft, the portable approach offers quick deployment.

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## PROS AND CONS FOR PILOTS

Starlink's general aviation expansion brings clear benefits for pilots. High-speed access to weather radar, NOTAMs, and TFRs enhances situational awareness, while continuous communication supports dynamic flight planning and VoIP calls. Passengers can stream or work, improving the overall experience on longer flights. The system's reliability in remote areas, where ground signals fade, makes it a game-changer for utility missions or cross-country trips.

Drawbacks include high costs—the Mini hardware at $599, plus monthly plans from $65 to $1,500—and power requirements that strain smaller aircraft batteries. Performance can dip during maneuvers or in polar regions due to satellite coverage gaps, and offshore use is limited to premium plans. Regulatory restrictions bar permanent installations without certification in most light general aviation planes, forcing reliance on portable setups.

The system's weight and size, while compact, add to payload considerations, and firmware updates require ground connections. Despite these, the pros outweigh cons for pilots needing robust connectivity, with early adopters reporting transformative improvements in flight safety and efficiency.

## A GROWING MARKET FOR SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY

Starlink's push into general aviation taps a $10 billion inflight connectivity market, growing 15% annually as pilots demand better data access. Competitors like Gogo and Viasat offer aviation Wi-Fi, but Starlink's low Earth orbit satellites provide lower latency and higher speeds than geostationary alternatives. United Airlines and Qatar Airways have adopted Starlink for commercial fleets, but general aviation, with 200,000 U.S. aircraft, remains underserved, where traditional systems cost $10,000+ to install.

The Mini's portable nature lowers barriers, but scaling to more aircraft requires expanded certifications. SpaceX's 7,000 satellites ensure global coverage, but FAA scrutiny on interference and safety delays widespread adoption. As general aviation modernizes, Starlink's affordability—under $1,000 for hardware and basic plans—could disrupt the market, challenging incumbents focused on business jets.

The expansion aligns with trends like remote monitoring in cargo flights or telemedicine in air ambulances, where reliable internet is critical. Starlink's success depends on addressing power and regulatory issues, but its entry promises to connect the skies like never before.

Image: Gary John Norman

# APPLE FACES PRESSURE TO BOOST AI STRATEGY AMID SHARE SLUMP

The recent dip in Apple's share price has triggered a new wave of investor scrutiny. Once seen as an unshakeable tech giant, Apple is now being forced to answer tough questions about its long-term competitiveness in the AI arms race. While competitors are surging ahead with generative AI integrations, large language model deployment, and cloud-based AI services, Apple's traditionally cautious innovation model is showing signs of strategic strain.

Apple's unveiling of "Apple Intelligence" at WWDC 2025 was met with cautious optimism. The new AI system is designed to integrate tightly with iOS, iPadOS, and macOS, offering capabilities like enhanced Siri responses, natural language summarization, and context-aware notifications. But despite these features, industry observers noted that the presentation lacked the disruptive energy demonstrated by competitors like Microsoft and Google, who have aggressively launched enterprise-level AI products and tools.

The core of investor frustration lies in the perceived gap between Apple's market valuation and its AI delivery timeline. Financial analysts from JP Morgan and Bank of America downgraded Apple's stock outlook in early July, citing "strategic lag" and a "slow AI monetization roadmap." These concerns have been amplified by the tech sector's broader shift, where artificial intelligence is not just a growth area but the engine powering the next phase of digital transformation.

While Microsoft has cemented its lead through its partnership with OpenAI and deep AI integration across Windows and Azure, Apple is seen as trailing. Google's Gemini-powered tools are rapidly scaling into Gmail, Docs, and Search, while Amazon is embedding generative AI into AWS cloud offerings at enterprise scale. Against this backdrop, Apple's emphasis on user privacy, on-device processing, and a closed ecosystem has started to feel more like a constraint than a strength—especially in a market that increasingly rewards speed, scale, and flexibility.

Apple's model of innovation has historically favored stability and design polish over being first to market. This worked in the era of the iPod, iPhone, and M-series chips. But the AI boom is unfolding under vastly different dynamics. It is a developer-driven, open-source-accelerated movement that evolves weekly, not annually.

Apple Intelligence

WWDC25

By the time Apple integrates AI into its annual iPhone refresh cycle, competitors may have already cycled through several updates and platform rollouts.

Despite the criticism, Apple isn't standing still. CEO Tim Cook has publicly stated in multiple earnings calls that Apple is "investing significantly in generative AI" and has a "robust roadmap" for intelligent features across its devices. There's evidence of internal restructuring and a surge in AI-focused hiring across its Cupertino and Seattle campuses. According to Bloomberg, Apple has been discreetly acquiring smaller AI startups focused on natural language processing and computer vision. However, the lack of a high-profile acquisition or strategic partnership—such as Microsoft's stake in OpenAI—has left market analysts underwhelmed.

Apple's technical advantages still give it leverage. Its M-series chips offer best-in-class performance per watt, allowing complex AI tasks to run on-device with lower latency and higher privacy safeguards. This positions Apple well to lead in personalized AI applications, where data remains local to the user. The company's ecosystem of over 2 billion active devices also gives it unparalleled distribution potential for consumer AI. Yet to date, these strengths haven't translated into clear commercial momentum.

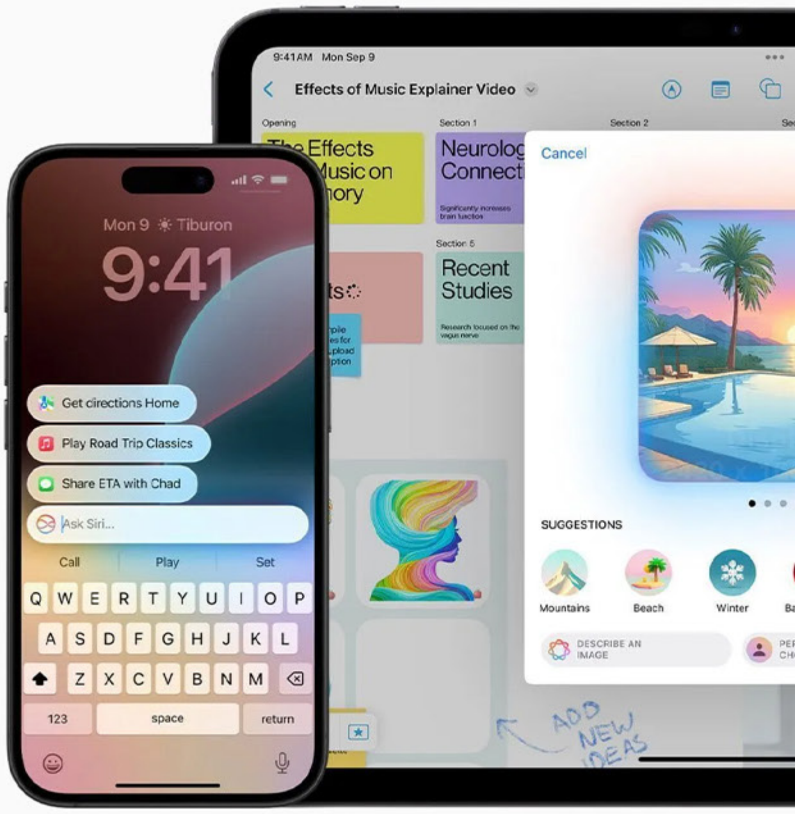
One of the key criticisms from the developer community is that Apple's AI roadmap lacks openness and collaboration. Tools announced at WWDC offer limited third-party customization, leaving app developers to rely on generic APIs with little transparency into model behavior.

In contrast, Google's Android ecosystem and Microsoft's Azure platform provide deeper integrations and faster feedback loops for developers building AI-native applications. If Apple wants to retain its grip on the App Store economy, it must offer developers more powerful and transparent AI tools—especially as AI becomes the backbone of software innovation.

The market's impatience may also stem from Apple's muted communication style. While Google and Microsoft hold frequent AI-focused events and release detailed research papers and model updates, Apple continues to operate behind closed doors. That has always been part of its brand mystique, but in today's AI-driven tech narrative, opacity is increasingly viewed as a liability. Investors, developers, and even loyal users are demanding more clarity—about where Apple is heading, how it's differentiating itself, and when it will deliver AI experiences that truly compete with the current leaders.

Complicating matters further is Apple's focus on user privacy. While laudable from an ethical standpoint, it creates technical limitations. On-device AI is constrained by smaller model sizes and less training data, compared to cloud-based systems that rely on vast datasets to improve performance. Apple's refusal to process user data in the cloud without strict safeguards means its AI models may struggle to match the raw capability of Microsoft's or Google's offerings—especially in natural language understanding and generation.

Nevertheless, there are scenarios where Apple could make its AI strategy work to its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VOLUME 7, ISSUE 11

Hyperphantasia: The Vivid Imagination

Do you easily conjure up mental imagery? You may be a hyperphant, a person who can evoke detailed visuals in their mind. This condition can influence one's creativity, memory, and even career. The ways that symptoms manifest are astonishing.

WRITTEN BY: XIAOMENG ZHONG

Hyperphantasia is the condition of having an extraordinarily vivid imagination. Derived from Aristotle's "phantasia," which translates to "the mind's eye," its symptoms include photorealistic thoughts and the ability to envisage objects, memories, and dreams in extreme detail.

If asked to think about holding an apple, many hyperphants are able to "see" one while simultaneously sensing its texture or taste. Others experience books and

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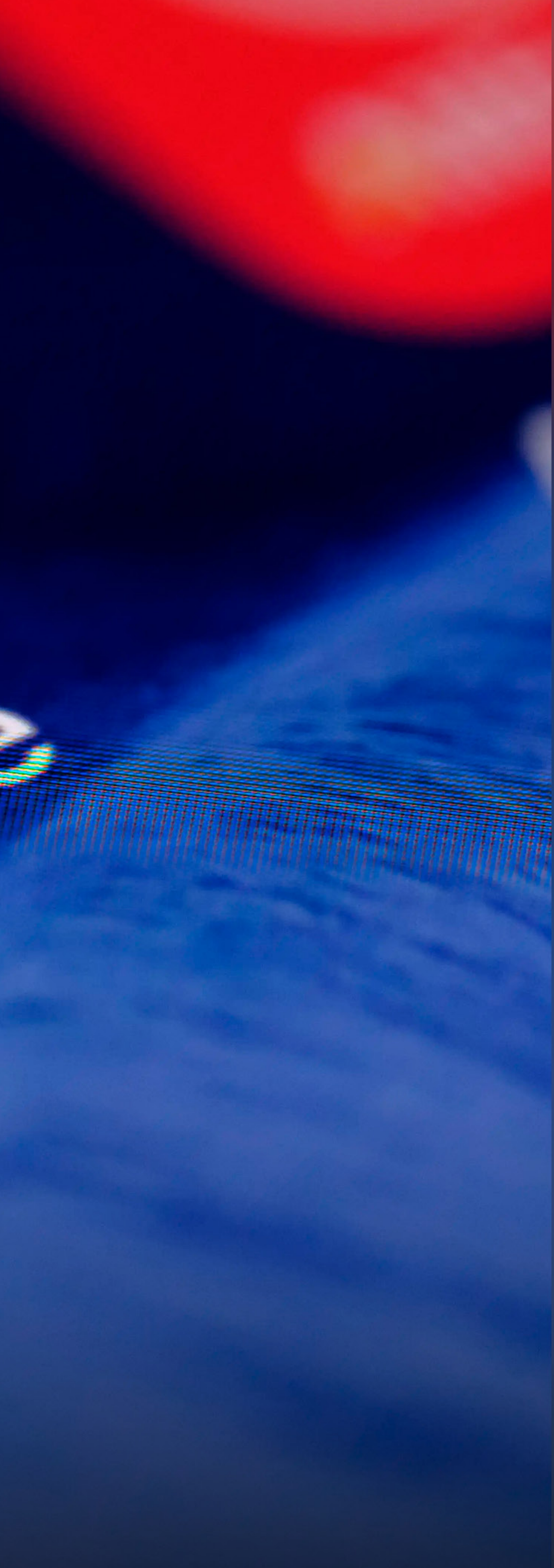
advantage. If it leans into personalized, context-aware intelligence that works seamlessly and privately across Apple devices, it could carve out a unique niche. Imagine a version of Siri that truly understands your routines, writing habits, messaging style, or fitness goals—without sending data to external servers. This privacy-forward approach could appeal to consumers increasingly wary of data-hungry tech giants, positioning Apple as a premium, trusted AI provider.

But to achieve that, Apple must act quickly and decisively. The tech industry's momentum is now AI-first. It's no longer enough to add intelligent features to apps or refine existing interfaces. The competitive edge is in foundational models, continuous deployment, and platform openness. Apple doesn't need to copy its rivals, but it must offer a compelling, distinct vision—and execute on it with greater transparency and speed.

The next fiscal quarters will be critical. WWDC 2025 gave a starting point, but by the time the iPhone 17 is unveiled in September, Apple must show measurable progress—not just in product features, but in market impact. Institutional investors are watching closely. Developers are waiting for tools they can build on. And users are ready for AI that feels intuitive, useful, and distinctly Apple.

Chrome



# GOOGLE'S ANDROID HEAD CONFIRMS CHROME OS AND ANDROID ARE MERGING

Google's Android head has confirmed that the company is combining Chrome OS and Android into a single platform, a move that could unify its operating systems across devices. 1 This long-rumored integration aims to create a seamless experience for phones, laptops, and tablets, addressing years of speculation about blending the two ecosystems.

In a recent interview, Android Ecosystem President Sameer Samat stated that Google is merging Chrome OS with Android to form one operating system. 0 The announcement ends months of rumors and fulfills a vision desired for over a decade, as the two platforms have coexisted with overlapping features but distinct identities. 3 Chrome OS, known for its lightweight, browser-based design on Chromebooks, will be built on Android's foundation, creating a unified platform that works across form factors.

This shift is not a complete overhaul but a combination where Android's mobile strengths merge with Chrome OS's productivity focus. 5 Experts suggest the process may take years, with no immediate changes for current users, but the goal is to streamline development and improve consistency. 6 Google has been laying groundwork, such as running Chrome OS apps on Android via a virtual machine, hinting at deeper integration ahead.

The confirmation comes at a time when Google faces pressure to innovate, with competitors like Apple blending iOS and macOS features through Continuity. 8 For Google, this merger could resolve fragmentation issues, where Android powers phones and tablets, while Chrome OS handles laptops, leading to a more cohesive ecosystem.

## WHAT THE MERGER ENTAILS

The combined platform will likely see Chrome OS evolve into an Android variant optimized for larger screens and productivity. 10 This means Chromebooks could run Android apps natively with better performance, and Android devices might gain desktop-like features from Chrome OS, such as improved window management and keyboard support. 11 The merger builds on existing efforts, like Android's desktop mode in developer previews, which turns phones into makeshift computers when connected to monitors.

Google's approach avoids scrapping Chrome OS entirely, instead integrating its security and simplicity into Android's flexible framework. 13 This could lead to a single OS that adapts to device types, similar to how Windows runs on PCs and tablets. 14 Developers would benefit from one codebase, reducing the effort to build apps for multiple Google platforms.

The technical details remain sparse, but the merger addresses pain points like inconsistent app compatibility between Android and Chrome OS. 16 For instance, Chromebooks already run Android apps via a compatibility layer, but native integration could eliminate lag and improve battery life. 17 The result could be a versatile OS that powers everything from foldables to laptops, streamlining Google's offerings in a market where hardware diversity is key.

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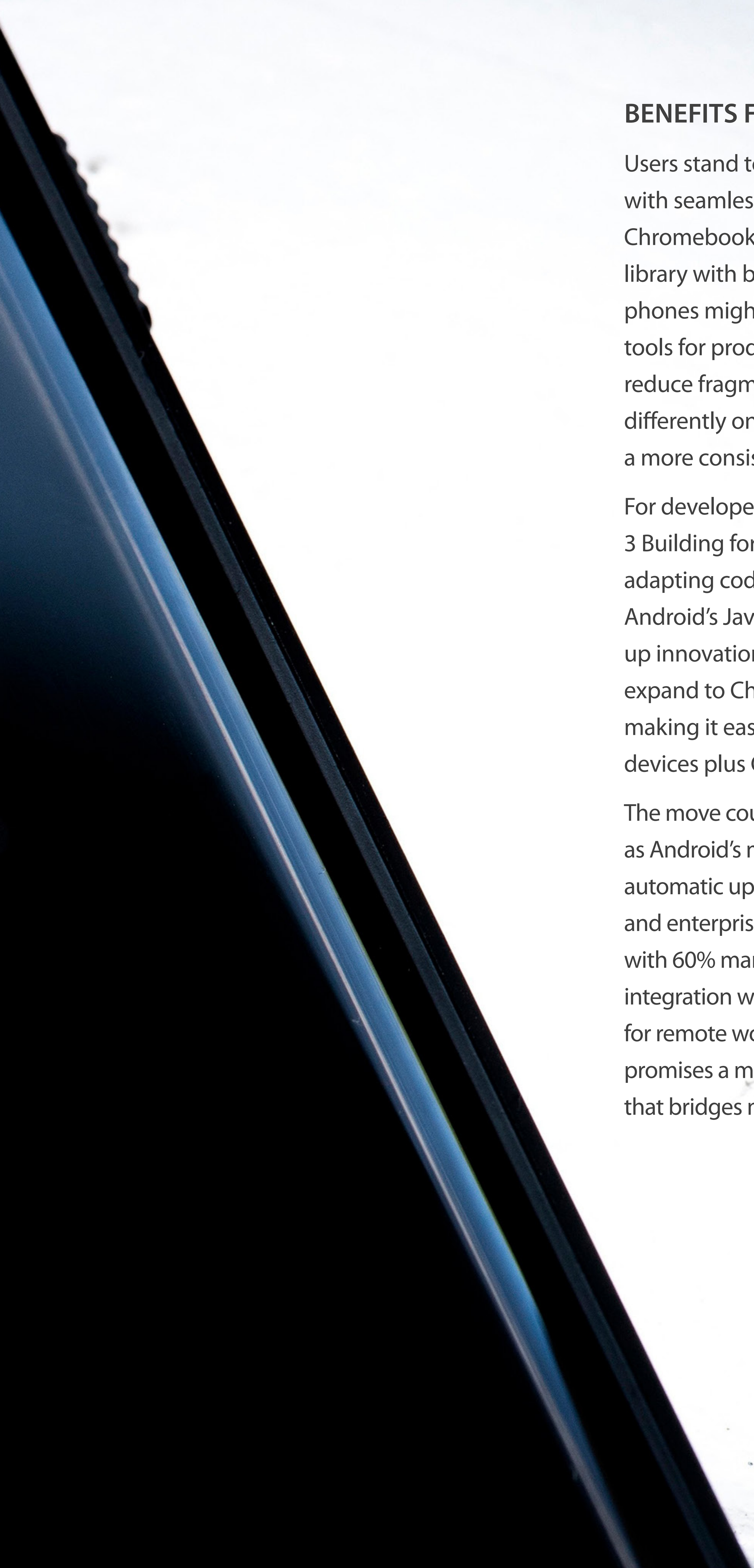


## BENEFITS FOR USERS AND DEVELOPERS

Users stand to gain from a merged platform, with seamless experiences across devices. 0 Chromebooks could access Android's vast app library with better optimization, while Android phones might borrow Chrome OS's multitasking tools for productivity. 1 This unification could reduce fragmentation, where apps behave differently on phones versus laptops, leading to a more consistent Google ecosystem. 2

For developers, the merger simplifies work. 3 Building for one platform means less time adapting code for Chrome OS's Linux base or Android's Java framework, potentially speeding up innovation. 4 Google's Play Store could expand to Chromebooks with unified updates, making it easier to reach 3 billion Android devices plus Chrome OS's 100 million users.

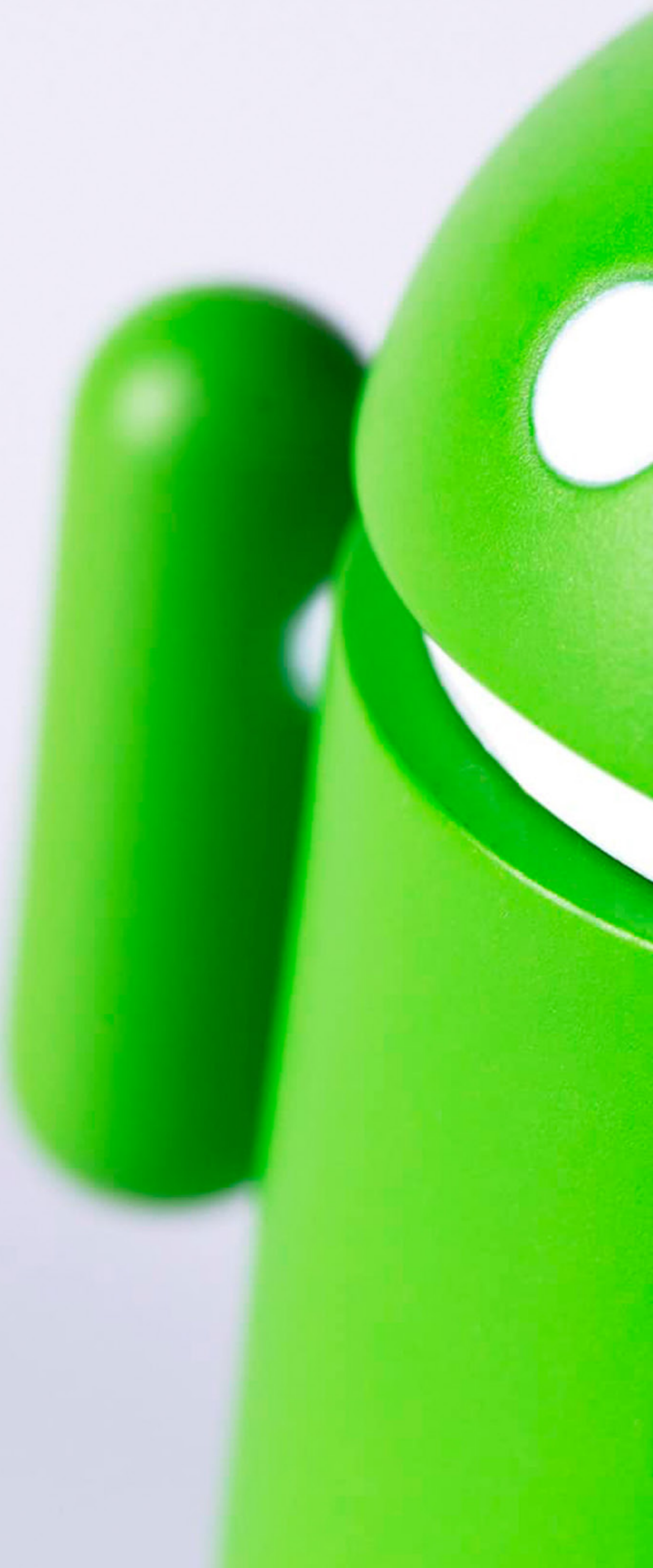
The move could enhance security and updates, as Android's monthly patches and Chrome OS's automatic updates combine. 6 For education and enterprise, where Chromebooks dominate with 60% market share, this could mean better integration with Android apps, improving tools for remote work or learning. 7 Overall, the merger promises a more powerful, user-friendly system that bridges mobile and desktop computing.

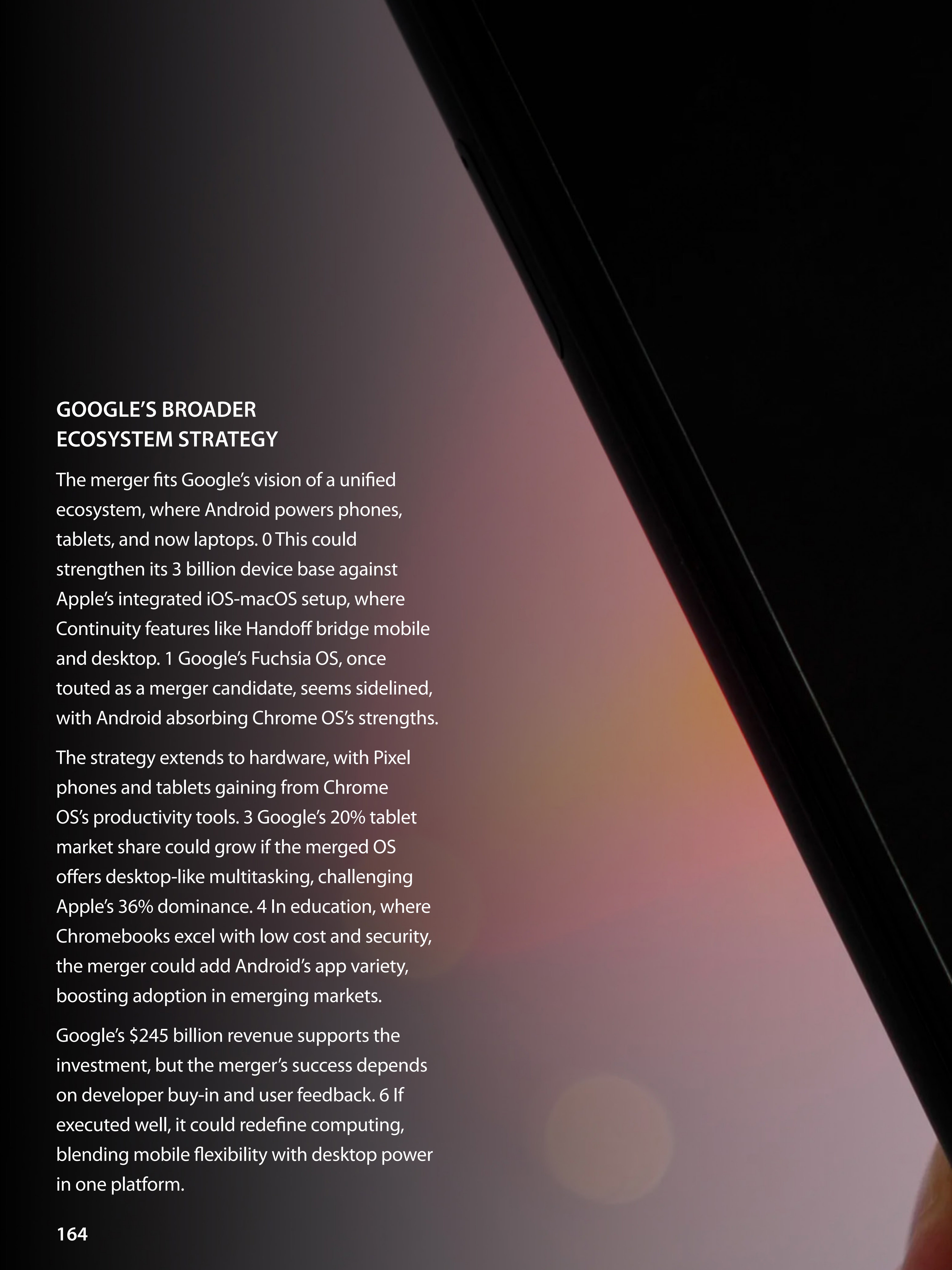
## CHALLENGES AND TIMELINE

The merger isn't without hurdles. 9 Chrome OS's Linux roots and Android's ART runtime differ fundamentally, requiring significant engineering to blend without breaking existing apps. 10 Developers may face migration issues, and users could encounter bugs during the transition. 11 Google's history of abandoning projects, like Fuchsia OS, raises doubts about commitment.

The timeline remains vague, with experts estimating years for full integration. 13 Early signs include Chrome OS running on Android kernels in developer builds, but a complete merger could take until 2028. 14 Regulatory scrutiny, especially in the EU where Google's Android dominance faces antitrust probes, could delay progress. 15 The DMA's push for openness might force Google to allow third-party app stores on the merged OS, complicating design.

Hardware compatibility is another issue. 17 Chromebooks use Intel and AMD processors, while Android favors Arm, requiring optimization to avoid performance hits. 18 Google must ensure the merger doesn't disrupt its 100 million Chrome OS users, particularly in education where Chromebooks hold 60% market share.





## GOOGLE'S BROADER ECOSYSTEM STRATEGY

The merger fits Google's vision of a unified ecosystem, where Android powers phones, tablets, and now laptops. 0 This could strengthen its 3 billion device base against Apple's integrated iOS-macOS setup, where Continuity features like Handoff bridge mobile and desktop. 1 Google's Fuchsia OS, once touted as a merger candidate, seems sidelined, with Android absorbing Chrome OS's strengths.

The strategy extends to hardware, with Pixel phones and tablets gaining from Chrome OS's productivity tools. 3 Google's 20% tablet market share could grow if the merged OS offers desktop-like multitasking, challenging Apple's 36% dominance. 4 In education, where Chromebooks excel with low cost and security, the merger could add Android's app variety, boosting adoption in emerging markets.

Google's $245 billion revenue supports the investment, but the merger's success depends on developer buy-in and user feedback. 6 If executed well, it could redefine computing, blending mobile flexibility with desktop power in one platform.

# APPLE BREAKS INTO MOST-WATCHED SHOWS OF 2025

Apple TV+ has made a notable entry into the ranks of the most-watched streaming series, with its original programming securing a top-five spot for the first time. Severance, the dystopian workplace thriller, led the charge, drawing billions of minutes viewed and outpacing several competitors from Netflix and Hulu. This breakthrough reflects Apple's growing traction in a crowded streaming market, where subscriber loyalty often hinges on compelling content. The service, launched in 2019, has steadily built its library, but Severance's success marks a turning point, signaling that Apple's investment in high-quality dramas is paying off.

The show's second season, following a three-year hiatus, captivated audiences with its intricate plot of severed memories and corporate intrigue, starring Adam Scott and Britt Lower. It amassed over 9 billion minutes watched, placing it fifth overall and first among Apple originals. Other Apple series like Foundation and Murderbot also gained momentum, contributing to the platform's rising profile. Foundation, based on Isaac Asimov's novels, explores galactic empires and human destiny, while Murderbot follows a rogue security unit in a sci-fi setting. These entries highlight Apple's focus on thoughtful, genre-bending narratives that appeal to a broad audience.

This achievement comes as Apple TV+ navigates a competitive landscape, with Netflix dominating viewership charts. The platform's emphasis on curated content, rather than volume, has drawn praise for quality, but limited subscriber numbers—estimated at 25-40 million—have historically capped its reach.

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Apple TV

Rotten Tomatoes

Severance's breakout performance suggests Apple's strategy of fewer, higher-impact shows is resonating, potentially boosting subscriptions in a market projected to hit $28 billion in revenue this year.

## SEVERANCE LEADS THE PACK

Severance stands out as Apple's flagship hit, blending psychological drama with commentary on work-life balance. The series, created by Dan Erickson and directed by Ben Stiller, follows employees at Lumon Industries who undergo a procedure to separate work memories from personal ones. Its second season, delving deeper into the severed world's mysteries, has been lauded for strong performances and innovative storytelling, earning a 97% Rotten Tomatoes score.

The show's viewership figures place it alongside Netflix heavyweights like Squid Game, which topped the list with 15 billion minutes. This marks a shift for Apple, whose series have often been critically acclaimed but under-watched compared to rivals. Foundation, a sci-fi epic starring Jared Harris, ranks high on Apple's internal charts, exploring themes of empire collapse and psychohistory. Murderbot, adapted from Martha Wells' novels, follows a sarcastic security android navigating human interactions, appealing to fans of character-driven science fiction.

Stick, a comedy about family and survival, and Smoke, a thriller involving corporate espionage, also feature prominently in Apple's most popular lineup. These diverse genres show Apple's commitment to variety, from light-hearted fare to intense dramas, helping the platform attract a wider audience beyond its core tech-savvy users.

## OTHER APPLE STANDOUTS

Beyond Severance, Apple's catalog includes several series that have gained traction. Ted Lasso, the feel-good comedy about an American coaching a British soccer team, remains a staple, with Jason Sudeikis' optimistic character resonating globally. The Buccaneers, a period drama about American heiresses in Victorian England, draws viewers with its mix of romance and social commentary. Your Friends & Neighbors, a drama exploring suburban secrets, adds to the mix with strong ensemble performances.

Foundation continues to build a dedicated following, with its second season delving into Hari Seldon's plan to shorten a galactic dark age. Murderbot's unique premise—a self-hacking android preferring soap operas to violence—offers fresh sci-fi appeal. Smoke, centering on a journalist uncovering corruption, and Stick, following a family's quirky adventures, round out a lineup that balances prestige with entertainment.

These shows contribute to Apple's push for original content, with 51 titles available, including Echo Valley and Deaf President Now!. The platform's focus on quality over quantity, with budgets rivaling Netflix's, has yielded critical successes, but viewership breakthroughs like Severance are key to competing in a $28 billion market.

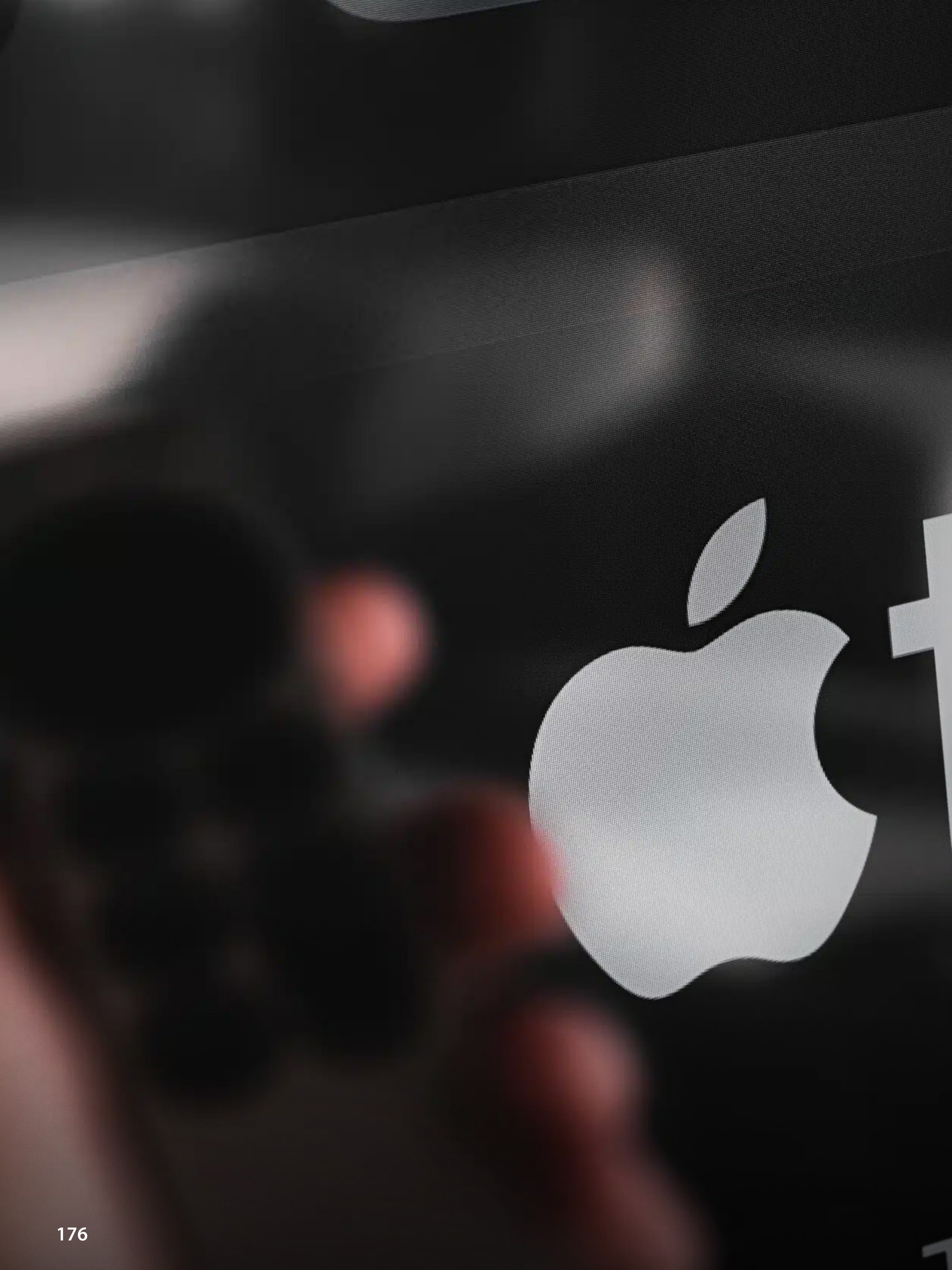
## THE STREAMING LANDSCAPE SHIFTS

Apple's entry into top-watched lists comes amid a streaming war where Netflix leads with 282 million subscribers, followed by Disney+ at 154 million and Amazon Prime Video at 250 million. Apple TV+, with an estimated 25-40 million subscribers, trails but uses its ecosystem of 1.8 billion devices to drive growth. Features like seamless integration with iPhones and Macs give it an edge, but limited transparency on metrics leaves analysts relying on third-party data like Nielsen's.

Rivals like Netflix dominate with volume—over 3,000 titles versus Apple's 200—but Apple's curated approach, emphasizing awards like CODA's Oscar, builds prestige. Disney+ leverages Marvel and Star Wars, while Amazon focuses on broad appeal with The Boys. Apple's strategy of fewer, higher-budget series, like Severance's $20 million per episode, aims for cultural impact, but scaling viewership is crucial to justify $20 billion in Services revenue.

The most-watched list, topped by Netflix's Squid Game with 15 billion minutes, shows the challenge, but Apple's fifth-place finish with Severance indicates progress. As the market grows 12% yearly, Apple's focus on originals could carve a niche, though competition from free ad-supported services like Tubi adds pressure.

tv+



## CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Apple TV+ faces hurdles in a saturated market. Its subscriber count, undisclosed but estimated low, limits scale compared to Netflix's 700 million profiles. High production costs—$20 billion annually for content—demand hits to recoup, but series like Argylle flopped at $96 million box office. Severance's success helps, but Apple's reliance on theatrical partners like Warner Bros. for films like F1 cuts margins.

The platform's ecosystem lock-in, requiring Apple devices for full features, alienates Android users, who make up 70% of the mobile market. Expanding to more platforms, as seen with Android support for Apple Music, could boost reach, but Apple guards its walled garden. Regulatory pressures, like the EU's Digital Markets Act forcing third-party app stores, could open distribution but risk fragmentation.

Looking ahead, Apple's slate, including The Pitt and Dope Thief, promises more prestige. If Severance's momentum continues, Apple could climb higher in viewership rankings, turning its quality focus into broader appeal in a $28 billion industry where content is king.

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# MICROSOFT PUSHES WINDOWS 11 UPGRADE FOR OFFICE ISSUES ON WINDOWS 10

Microsoft has announced changes to its support for Microsoft 365 apps on Windows 10, halting new feature additions while extending security updates. The move encourages users facing Office problems to upgrade to Windows 11 for full functionality, as the company phases out enhancements for the older operating system. This policy affects millions of Windows 10 users, who must weigh the benefits of new features against the familiarity of their current setup.

Windows 11
Windows 10

Image: Ralf Liebhold

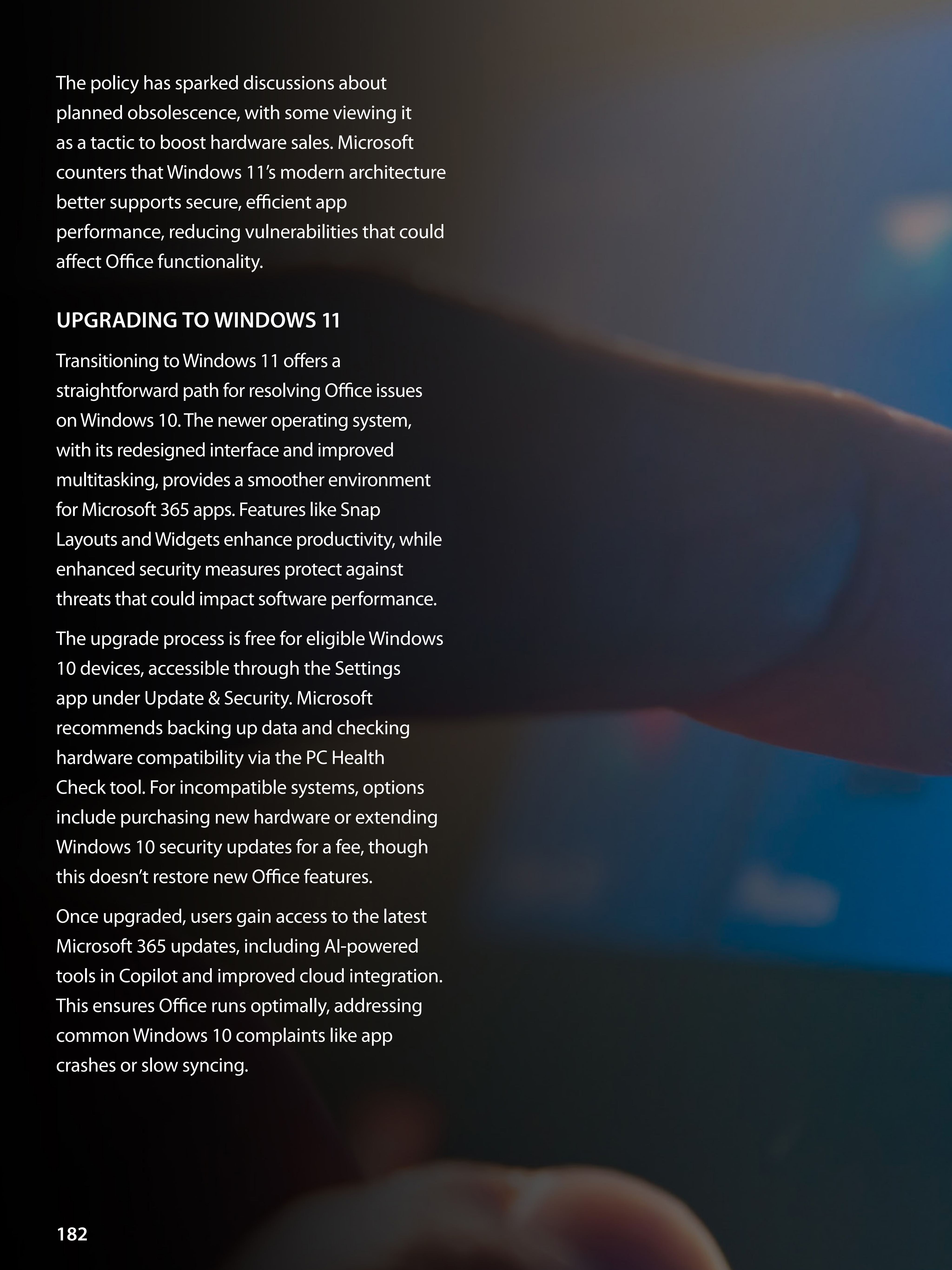
The decision stems from Windows 10's approaching end of life, after which Microsoft will no longer provide free software updates or technical assistance. For Microsoft 365, which includes Word, Excel, and Outlook, the lack of new features means users miss out on improvements like enhanced collaboration tools or AI integrations. Security updates continue for a limited time, ensuring basic protection, but the company emphasizes that Windows 11 offers the best experience for its productivity suite.

Users reporting issues like slow loading or compatibility glitches in Office on Windows 10 may find resolutions limited, with support teams directing them to upgrade as the primary fix.

## THE IMPACT ON USERS

Windows 10 users relying on Microsoft 365 for work or personal tasks face a dilemma. Without new features, apps remain functional but stagnant, missing updates that improve usability or add capabilities like advanced data analysis in Excel. Security updates provide a buffer, but the absence of ongoing enhancements could leave users behind in a rapidly evolving software landscape.

For businesses, the change means planning migrations to avoid disruptions. Many organizations still use Windows 10 for its stability, but Microsoft's policy pushes them toward Windows 11 to access the latest Office tools. Consumers, especially those with older hardware, must check compatibility, as Windows 11 requires specific processors and TPM 2.0 support, potentially necessitating new devices.



The policy has sparked discussions about planned obsolescence, with some viewing it as a tactic to boost hardware sales. Microsoft counters that Windows 11's modern architecture better supports secure, efficient app performance, reducing vulnerabilities that could affect Office functionality.

## UPGRADING TO WINDOWS 11

Transitioning to Windows 11 offers a straightforward path for resolving Office issues on Windows 10. The newer operating system, with its redesigned interface and improved multitasking, provides a smoother environment for Microsoft 365 apps. Features like Snap Layouts and Widgets enhance productivity, while enhanced security measures protect against threats that could impact software performance.

The upgrade process is free for eligible Windows 10 devices, accessible through the Settings app under Update & Security. Microsoft recommends backing up data and checking hardware compatibility via the PC Health Check tool. For incompatible systems, options include purchasing new hardware or extending Windows 10 security updates for a fee, though this doesn't restore new Office features.

Once upgraded, users gain access to the latest Microsoft 365 updates, including AI-powered tools in Copilot and improved cloud integration. This ensures Office runs optimally, addressing common Windows 10 complaints like app crashes or slow syncing.

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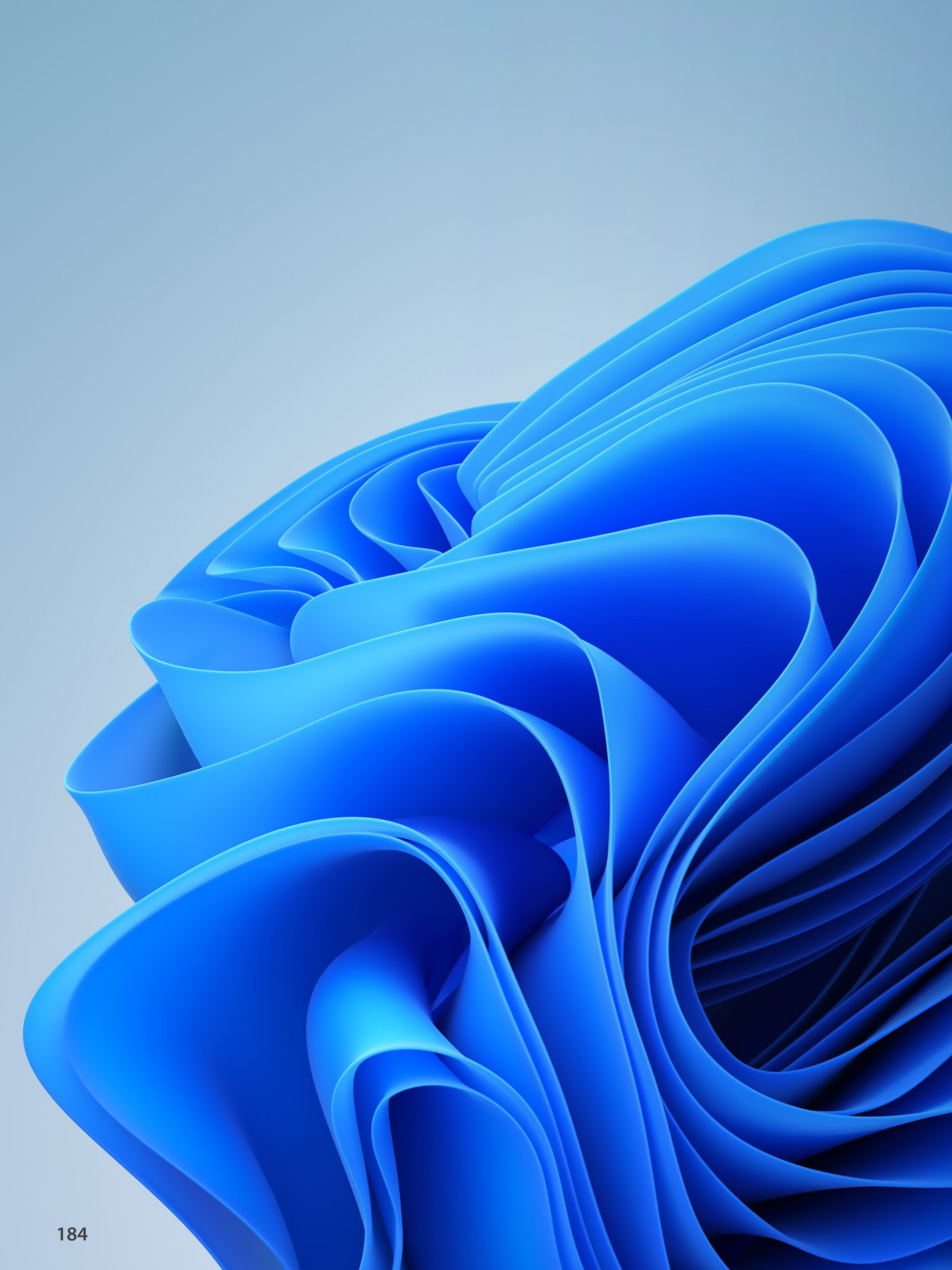


## BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR MICROSOFT

Microsoft's decision reflects a broader strategy to phase out Windows 10, encouraging adoption of Windows 11 to unify its user base. The company has invested heavily in Windows 11's AI capabilities, like Copilot, which require the newer OS for full integration with Office. This push aims to streamline development, focusing resources on one primary platform rather than maintaining legacy support.

The change also ties into Microsoft's cloud-first approach, where Microsoft 365 thrives on Windows 11's seamless Azure integration. Businesses benefit from enhanced security and compliance features, reducing risks in hybrid work environments. However, the policy risks alienating users attached to Windows 10's interface or unable to upgrade hardware.

Microsoft's extended security support for Windows 10 provides a grace period, but the halt on new features signals a firm stance: full innovation requires the latest OS. This could accelerate Windows 11 adoption, currently at 30% of Windows users, but it also highlights the tension between progress and accessibility.

## LOOKING AHEAD IN PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE

As Microsoft evolves its ecosystem, users must adapt to stay current with Office advancements. Windows 11's focus on security and performance positions it as the ideal platform for Microsoft 365, promising fewer issues and more features. For those sticking with Windows 10, basic functionality remains, but the gap in capabilities will widen over time.

The policy underscores the rapid pace of software development, where older systems eventually limit access to new tools. Microsoft encourages exploring Windows 11 through free upgrades or trials, emphasizing its role in delivering a secure, productive experience. As the transition unfolds, users face a choice between familiarity and the benefits of modern computing.

Windows 11
ducing Windows 11

# GOOGLE INKS $3 BILLION US HYDROPOWER DEAL IN LARGEST CLEAN ENERGY AGREEMENT OF ITS KIND

Google has signed a historic $3 billion hydropower agreement in the United States, marking the largest clean energy deal of its kind and setting a new precedent for corporate sustainability initiatives in the technology sector.

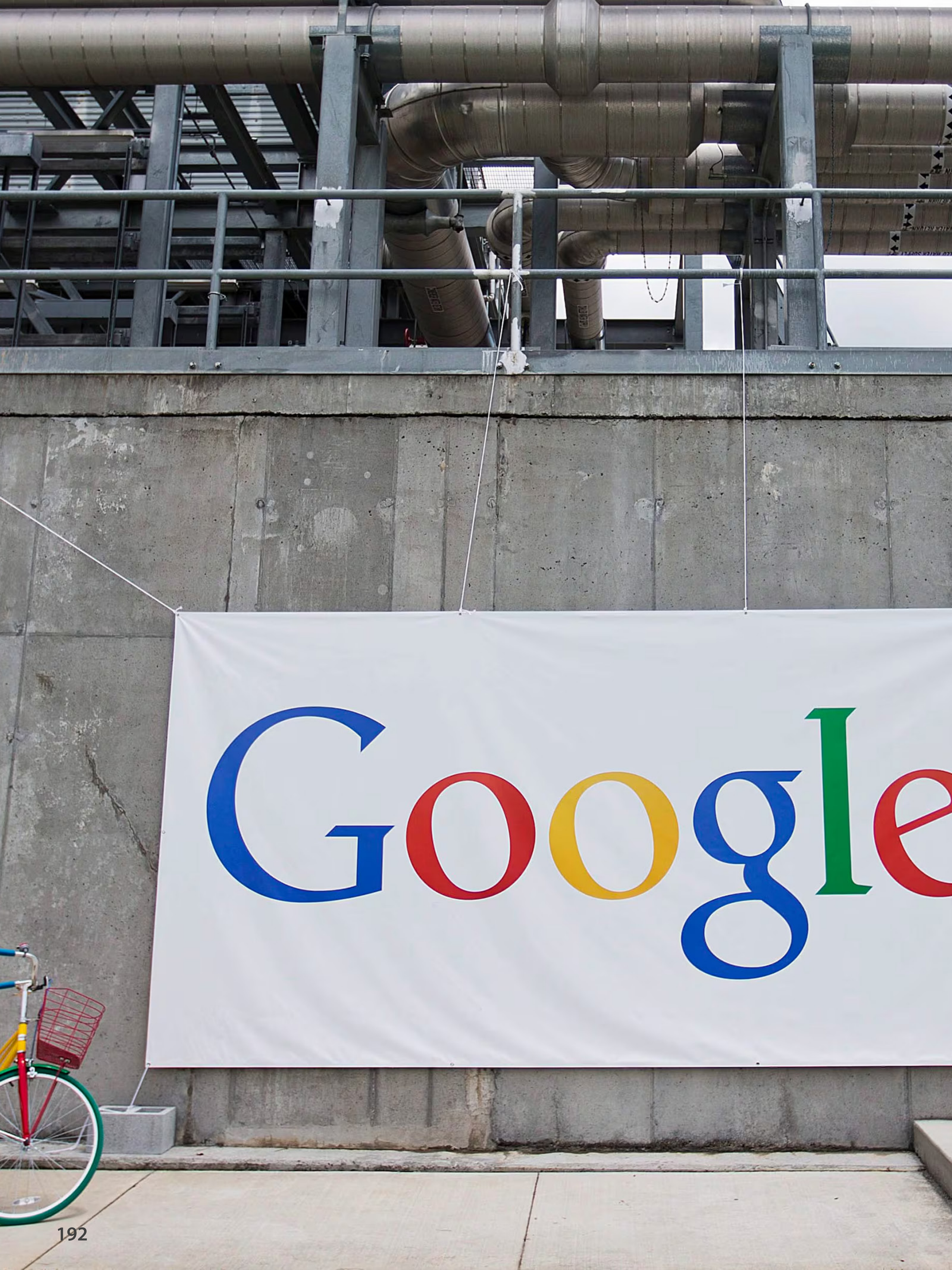
As the demand for reliable and carbon-free energy accelerates, Google's latest clean energy investment places the tech giant at the forefront of 24/7 renewable energy innovation. The company's deal, structured as a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA), shifts focus toward continuous and dispatchable power sources—specifically hydroelectricity—which are essential for meeting the round-the-clock demands of data centers and cloud infrastructure.

## A MAJOR STRATEGIC SHIFT IN GOOGLE'S ENERGY POLICY

The Google hydropower deal aligns with the company's ambitious objective to run all of its operations worldwide on carbon-free energy every hour of every day by 2030. This 24/7 carbon-free energy goal goes far beyond traditional net-zero targets, which typically allow for balancing emissions over time or location. Instead, Google is seeking to precisely match its energy usage with clean generation in real time.

Unlike wind or solar energy, which are variable and depend on environmental conditions, hydropower is a dispatchable clean energy source. This means it can be adjusted and controlled to match demand, offering a more stable and predictable supply of carbon-free electricity. For Google, this level of reliability is essential to support the intensive and continuous operations of data centers, artificial intelligence systems, and digital infrastructure.

FEDERAL ENERGY
ULATORY COMMISSION


Google

Michael Terrell, Google's Senior Director of Energy and Climate, described the deal as a turning point in the company's clean energy roadmap. "This is the largest single clean energy purchase we've ever made and represents a major milestone in our journey toward 24/7 carbon-free energy by 2030," he said in a public statement.

## DETAILS OF THE $3 BILLION CLEAN ENERGY AGREEMENT

The scope and structure of this deal reflect its historic nature. Rather than relying on a mix of renewable credits or offset schemes, Google is directly investing in regulated, existing hydroelectric infrastructure to power its operations in Nevada and surrounding states.

The agreement, valued at $3 billion over its lifetime, will source power from hydroelectric plants regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These facilities already exist within the western U.S. energy grid and will now supply a significant portion of Google's electricity demand, particularly during non-solar hours and high-load periods.

Google is partnering with NV Energy, a Nevada-based utility company and a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy, to manage the delivery and integration of the hydropower. NV Energy will facilitate the connection between generation and consumption, ensuring a consistent energy flow to Google's regional data centers.

By structuring the arrangement as a long-term power purchase agreement, Google not only secures price predictability but also creates financial stability for the clean energy provider. These types of agreements have become increasingly common in renewable energy procurement but are rarely applied at this scale or with dispatchable sources like hydro.

## SETTING A NEW STANDARD FOR CORPORATE ENERGY PROCUREMENT

This deal now stands as the largest corporate purchase of firm, carbon-free power in U.S. history. It signals a shift in how major corporations—particularly in the technology space—approach clean energy sourcing. While many companies have focused heavily on wind and solar contracts, those resources alone are often insufficient to guarantee consistent clean power across a 24-hour cycle.

Hydropower, in contrast, can offer baseload stability, especially when solar production dips during nighttime hours or cloudy periods. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), hydropower makes up approximately 6% of the total U.S. electricity supply and nearly 30% of all renewable electricity generation.

A recent report from the International Hydropower Association emphasizes this point: "Modernized hydropower can play a key role in stabilizing electricity grids during the clean energy transition." By investing in this resource, Google is not just procuring clean energy—it is future-proofing its energy needs against grid volatility and intermittency challenges.

This deal is also expected to spur further investment in hydroelectric upgrades and modernization efforts. Many U.S. hydro

POWER

facilities are decades old and require significant infrastructure reinvestment. Google's commitment provides an incentive for utilities and operators to revitalize existing assets instead of developing new dams, which are often met with regulatory and environmental resistance.

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE TECH INDUSTRY

The implications of this agreement stretch far beyond Google. Other tech giants like Amazon, Microsoft, and Meta have set aggressive climate targets, but few have tackled the operational complexity of sourcing 24/7 clean energy.

With AI workloads and data traffic expected to grow exponentially, the energy demands of tech infrastructure are reaching new heights. Global data centers already account for up to 2% of worldwide electricity consumption, and forecasts suggest that this share could double in the next decade. Traditional clean energy procurement models—largely based on average offsets or time-agnostic energy matching—may no longer be sufficient.

Google's hydro deal illustrates a new model: location-specific, time-aligned, and dispatchable carbon-free electricity. This model not only improves environmental outcomes but also strengthens power system reliability and resilience, especially during grid stress events.

Moreover, it reflects a more mature and integrated sustainability strategy, in which companies are actively shaping the energy systems they depend on, rather than simply buying credits or entering one-off agreements.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
ENERGY

## ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AROUND HYDROPOWER

Despite its advantages, hydropower has long been a subject of environmental debate. Large-scale hydroelectric projects have historically been associated with negative impacts on aquatic ecosystems, fish migration, sediment flow, and in some cases, the displacement of communities.

However, Google has preemptively addressed these concerns by ensuring that this agreement involves only existing hydro facilities, with no new dam construction or ecosystem disruption. This focus on modernizing and optimizing current assets allows the company to minimize its environmental impact while maximizing carbon-free energy output.

Environmental groups will likely continue to monitor the deal's implementation. Nonetheless, the approach aligns with the broader industry trend toward sustainable retrofit and grid integration, rather than expansive new builds that could disrupt fragile habitats.

## PAVING THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

With this $3 billion investment, Google is sending a clear message: the future of clean energy must be continuous, localized, and dependable. This deal represents more than a corporate energy purchase; it establishes a scalable model that other large energy users—especially in carbon-intensive industries—can follow.

The collaboration between Google and NV Energy also highlights the importance of utility

ogle
135
Charleston

partnerships in the clean energy transition. By working directly with regulated providers, large corporations can help shape the design and delivery of sustainable energy systems tailored to modern needs.

As governments, investors, and companies prepare for an increasingly electrified and digitized economy, initiatives like this serve as both blueprint and benchmark. The Google hydropower agreement demonstrates that bold, long-term investments in firm clean power are not only possible—they are essential.

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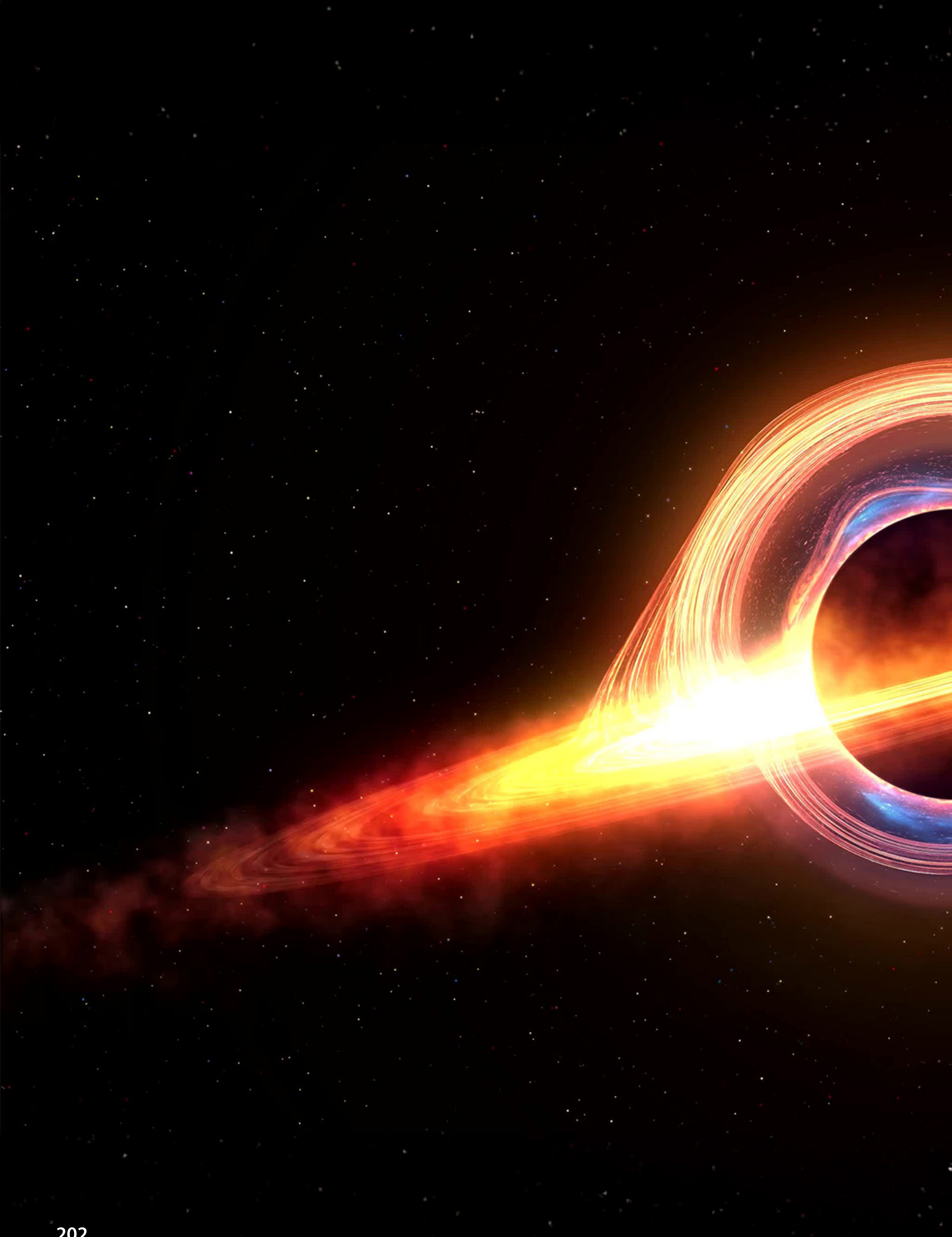
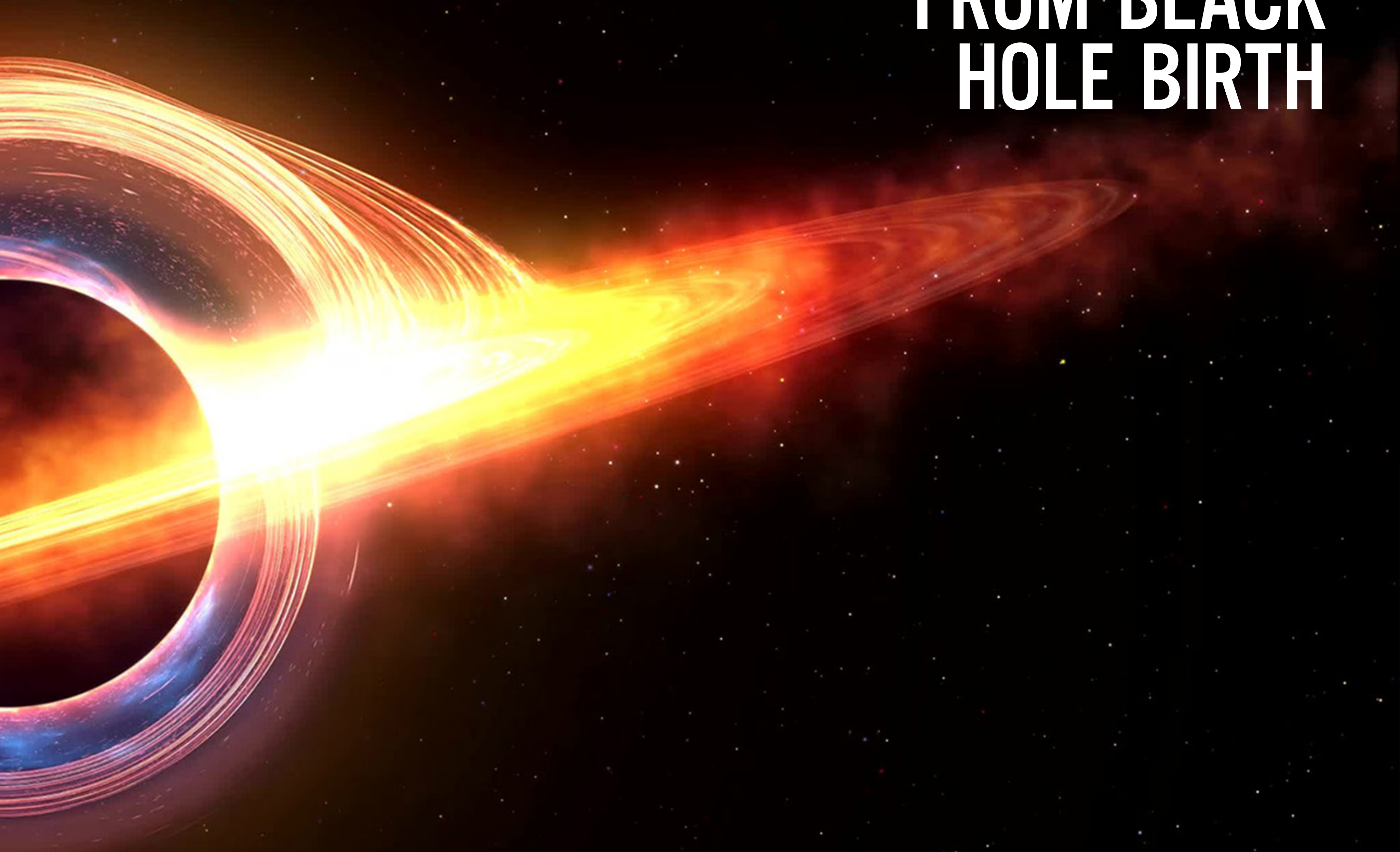


# INFINITY THEORY GAINS GROUND WITH NEW EVIDENCE FROM BLACK HOLE BIRTH



A groundbreaking astrophysical discovery has revived interest in the controversial "Infinity Theory," following observational evidence of a black hole's birth that challenges current models of spacetime and gravity.

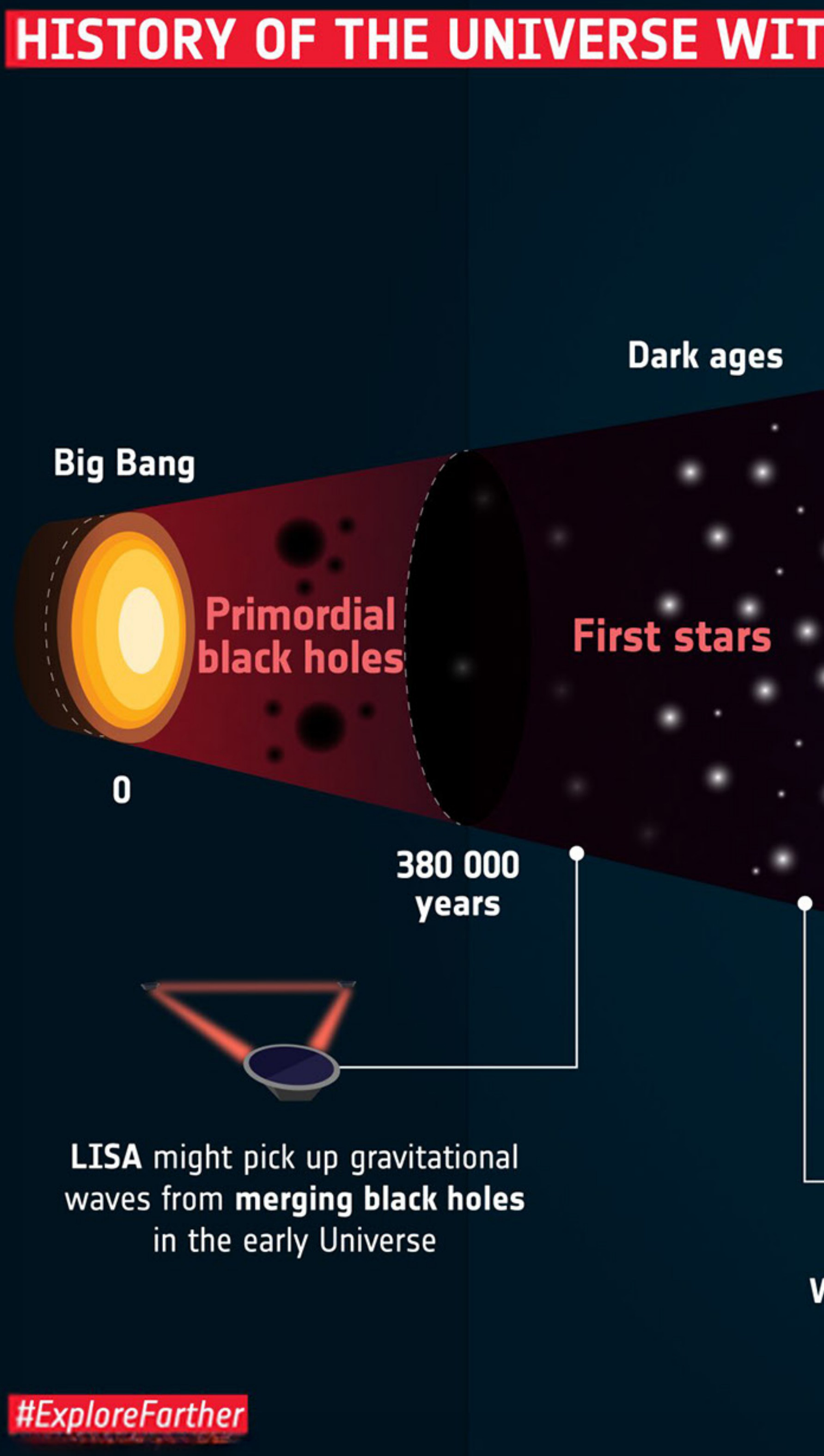
## OBSERVATION CHALLENGES RELATIVITY

Astrophysicists have observed the formation of a stellar-mass black hole with properties that appear to defy Einstein's general relativity, igniting global scientific debate. The findings, detailed in a July 2025 study by an international research team and reported by Phys.org, suggest behavior consistent with predictions from the Infinity Theory—a theoretical framework that posits an infinite recursive structure to the universe.

Using high-sensitivity instruments from the Event Horizon Explorer project, scientists captured real-time data from a collapsing neutron star in a nearby galaxy. While the collapse was expected to culminate in a black hole formation aligning with general relativity, the aftermath displayed a transient luminous echo and radiation signature that current gravitational models fail to account for. The anomaly has been interpreted by some theorists as evidence of an "infinite nesting structure" at the sub-Planck scale—a central idea in Infinity Theory.

## A THEORY LONG IGNORED

Infinity Theory, first proposed in the early 2000s, has remained on the fringes of cosmology due to its speculative nature and lack of empirical support. It theorizes that the universe consists of recursive spacetime layers—each black hole potentially containing entire universes within,


HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE WIT
Dark ages
Big Bang
Primordial black holes
First stars
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380 000 years
LISA might pick up gravitational waves from merging black holes in the early Universe
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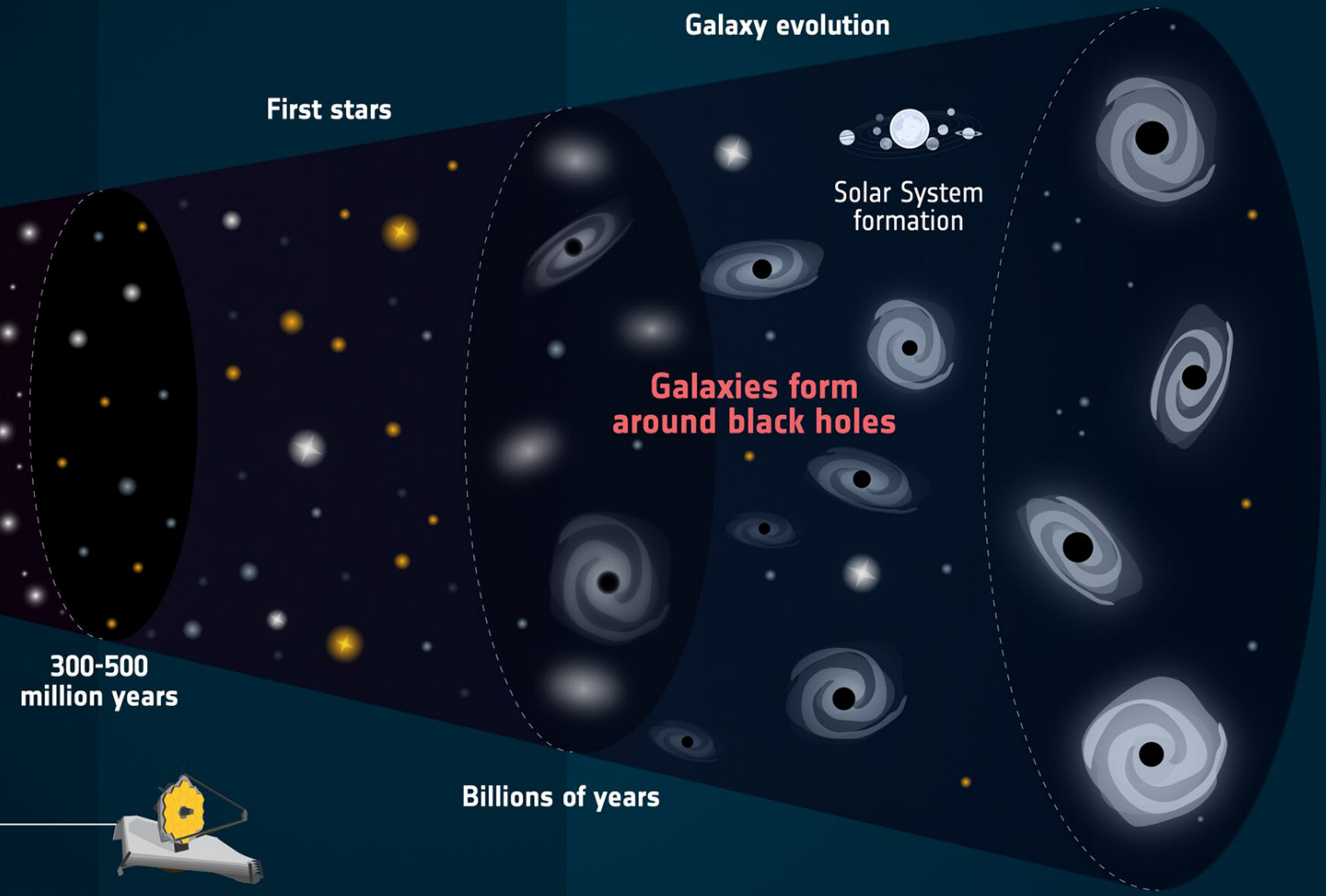
#ExploreFarther

## H PRIMORDIAL BLACK HOLES



Galaxy evolution

First stars

Solar System formation

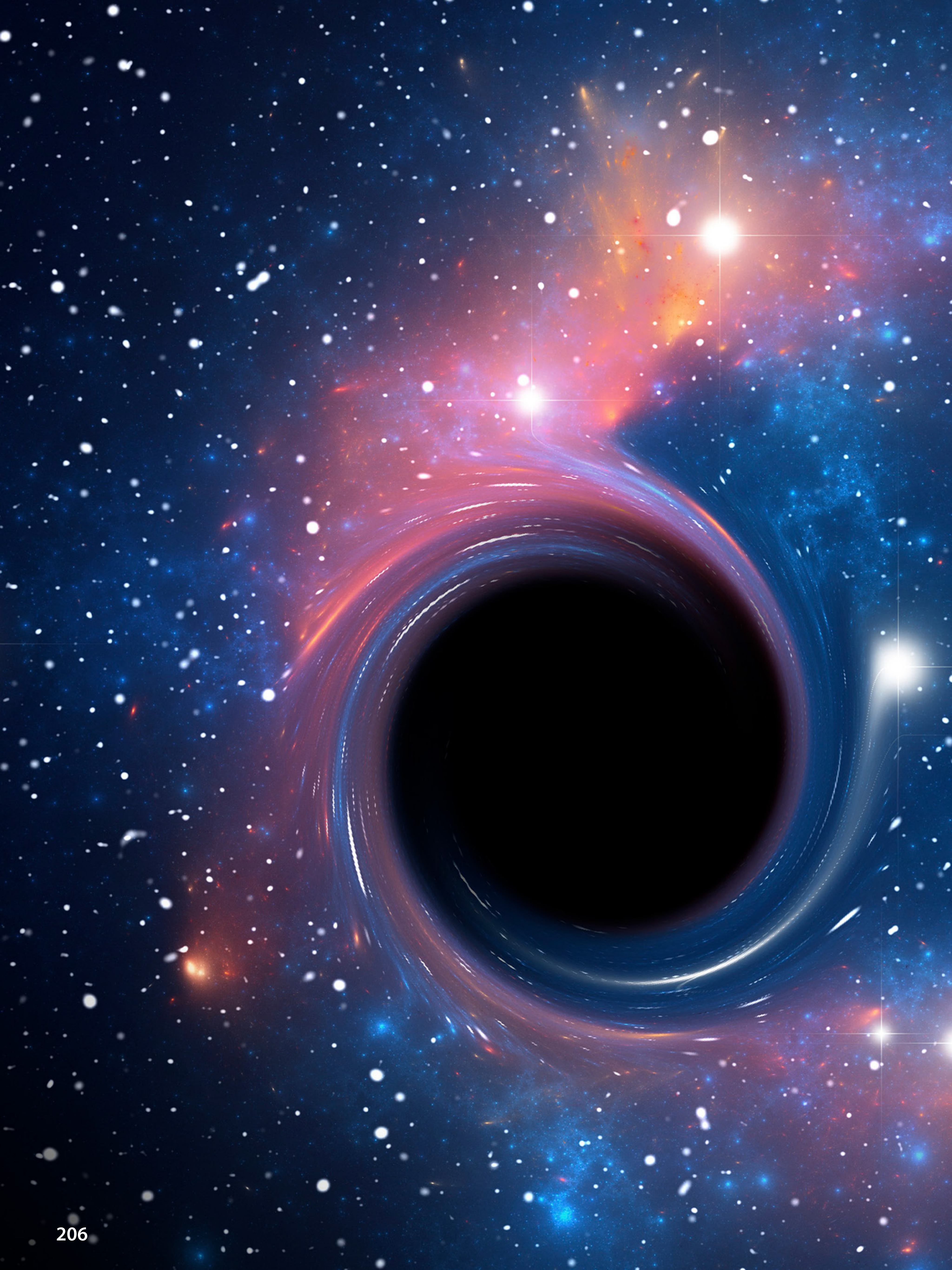
Galaxies form around black holes

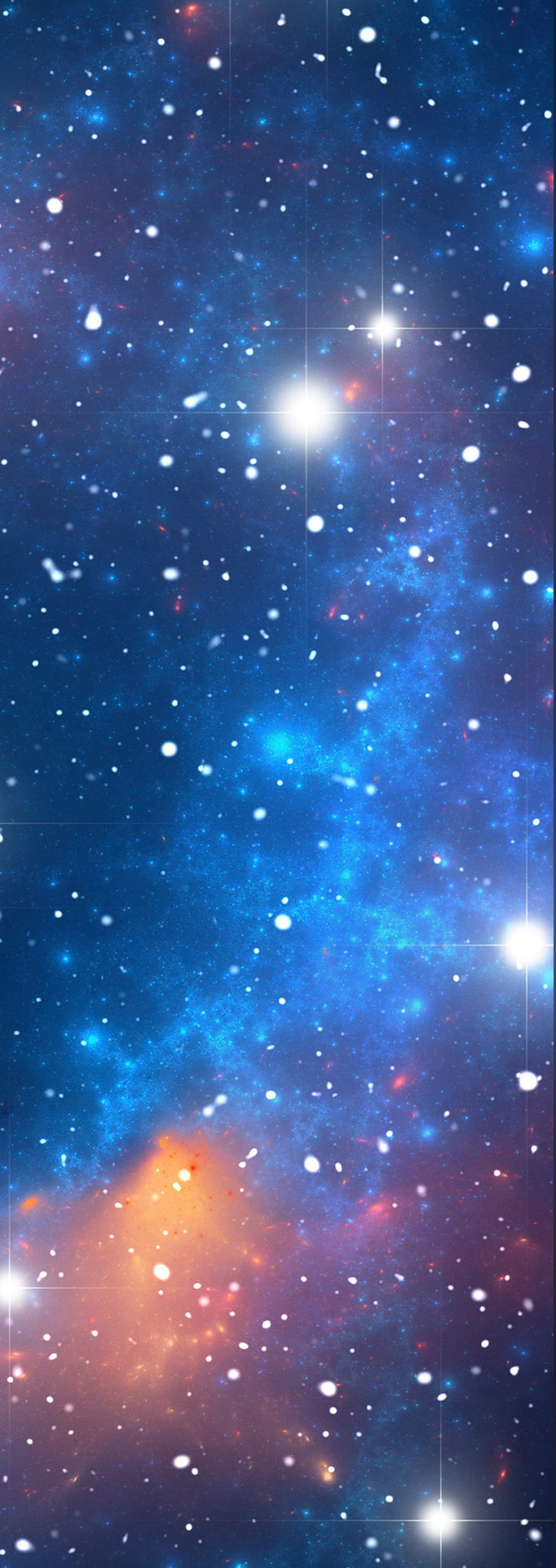
300-500 million years

Billions of years

Today

**Webb** might observe stars that were formed during the dark ages near **primordial black holes**





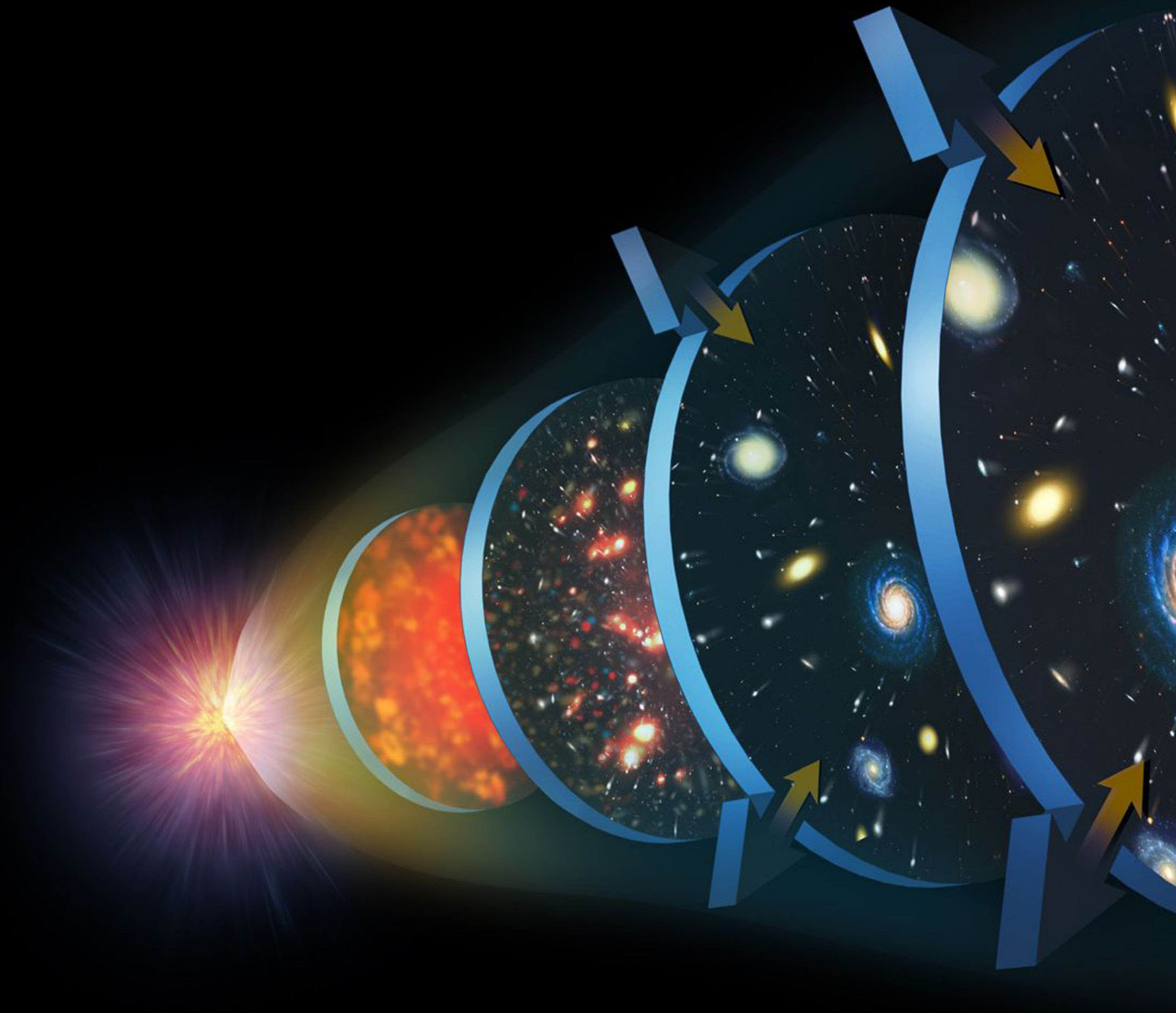
governed by their own physical laws. Until now, the absence of observable phenomena supporting such recursion kept the idea largely theoretical. The recent black hole birth, however, exhibits energy patterns that mimic what Infinity Theory would predict during a nested event horizon transition.

According to Dr. Karima Solovyev, co-author of the study and quantum cosmologist at the European Gravitational Research Institute, "The frequency displacement and radiation interference detected during the collapse aren't explainable with current relativity-based models. Infinity Theory provides one of the few theoretical lenses through which this anomaly makes consistent sense."

The radiation signature showed faint, secondary pulses following the primary gravitational wave—a result not expected from a classical black hole. The team ruled out equipment malfunction and accounted for all known astrophysical interferences. The discovery has led to a flurry of reanalysis at facilities such as LIGO and Virgo, where past data is now being reviewed for similar unexplained secondary emissions.

## SKEPTICISM AMID INTEREST

Critics remain cautious. Many in the astrophysics community have emphasized the need for replication and broader observation before validating such extraordinary claims. Dr. Alan Fuchs of Caltech's Theoretical Physics Lab warned that "correlation does not equal causation," noting that rare matter interactions or exotic particle behavior might also explain the data. However, he acknowledged that



the consistency with Infinity Theory's predictions makes the anomaly worthy of deeper investigation.

This development arrives at a time of heightened interest in reconciling quantum mechanics and gravity. Current leading efforts in quantum gravity—such as string theory and loop quantum gravity—have yet to produce testable predictions, frustrating physicists seeking empirical breakthroughs. Infinity Theory, long overshadowed by these larger frameworks, may now gain renewed attention as an alternative path toward a unified model of spacetime.

Supporters of the theory point out that its recursive universe concept could explain several other cosmic phenomena, including the black hole information paradox and the uniformity of cosmic background radiation. By proposing that information is conserved across nested universal layers, Infinity Theory attempts to resolve long-standing inconsistencies in cosmology.

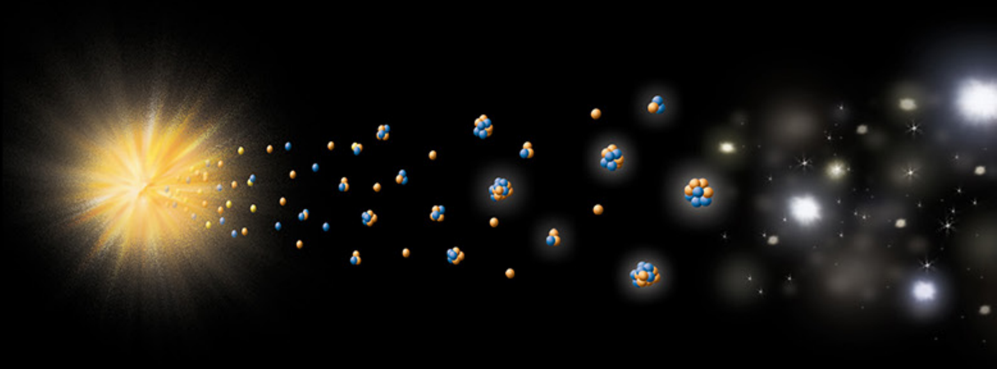
## A DIFFERENT COSMIC VISION

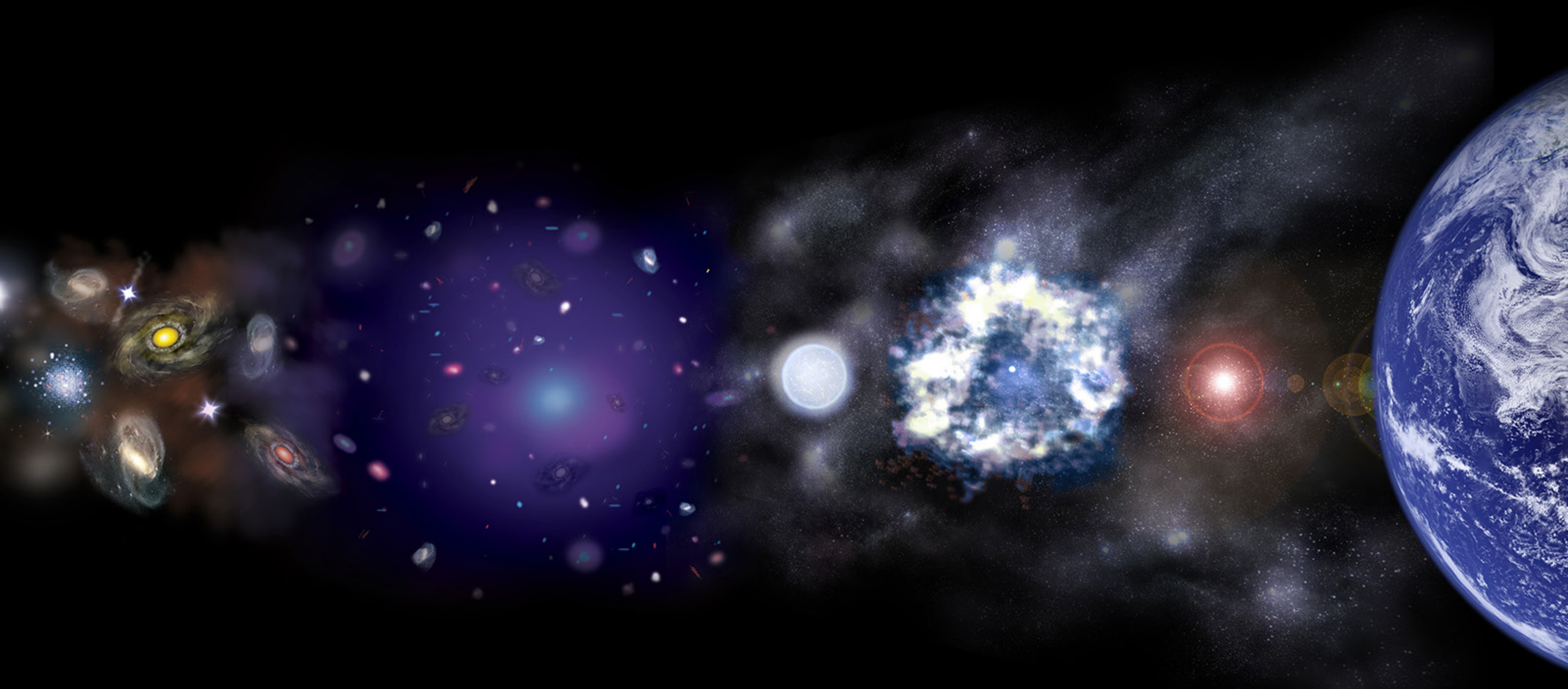
There is also philosophical intrigue. Infinity Theory suggests a potentially eternal and self-similar cosmos, where creation and destruction cycles repeat infinitely at every scale. This contrasts with the finite model of the observable universe bounded by a singular Big Bang origin. If future observations continue to validate recursive behavior within black holes, it may not only reshape our understanding of astrophysics but also our conception of reality itself.

Researchers are now planning more targeted observations using deep-field instruments like the James Webb Space Telescope and the soon-to-be-launched Quantum Light Array. These platforms may be able to detect further radiation echoes or nested event horizon effects from other black hole births, offering additional data points to confirm or refute the current findings.

Meanwhile, the global physics community remains divided. While some see the discovery as a potential paradigm shift, others urge restraint, cautioning against premature theorizing without further validation. Still, the scientific method thrives on anomalies—and for now, the black hole birth that defied expectations may become the most important astrophysical puzzle of the decade.

If Infinity Theory continues to gain empirical traction, it could signal the emergence of a new cosmological framework. One in which black holes are not just endpoints, but gateways to deeper structural truths about the universe—truths nested within each singularity, endlessly unfolding.





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SPECIAL EDITION" Spirits were high at Apple's "There's more in the making" event, which was held at the Howard Gilman Opera House in Brooklyn, New York on October 30. Hot off the heels of the launch of the new iPhone XS, XS Max and XR, Tim Cook and Co were ready to show off next-generation models of two of the company's most beloved products: the Mac, and the iPad. Introducing a whole host of new editions, this was an Apple event to

Everything Apple, Every Week.

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